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4 EASTERN AND WESTERN INTERIOR JOINT FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
5 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME I

8

9 Fairbanks, Alaska

10 March 8, 2001

11 9:00 o'clock a.m.

12

13

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15

16 Gerald Nicholia, Chair

17 Craig Fleener

18 Charles Miller

19 Jim Wilde

20

21 Ronald Sam, Chair

22 Raymond Collins

23 Henry Deacon

24 Angela Demientieff

25 Benedict Jones

26 Jack Reakoff

27 Michael Stickman - (Telephonic)

28

29 Coordinator; Vince Mathews, Donald Mike

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN SAM: With the consent of the
4 Chairman of Eastern Interior Regional Council, Gerald
5 Nicholia, we have agreed that I will open and begin chairing
6 this meeting. So at this time I would ask Vince to have a
7 roll call for the Western Interior.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, let me just
10 grab my book real quick. Okay, Ray Collins.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Here.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan is not going to be
19 available, he is in Washington, D.C., on a special committee.
20 Angela Demientieff.

21
22 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

25
26 MR. JONES: Here.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

29
30 MR. DEACON: Here.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Michael Stickman. I tried to
33 reach him on the phone, we're going to see where he is. We
34 were going to bring him in by teleconference but I had
35 difficulty with the phone so we're going to try to see if we
36 can get him on line. Sam Henry called this morning and his
37 brother's illness is requiring that he not be here. He may
38 show up later and we'll have to recognize him when he shows
39 up. Ron Sam.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, you have
44 six members here for Western Interior.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Western Interior declares
47 a quorum. Donald Mike, will you establish a quorum for
48 Eastern.

49

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gerald

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1 Nicholia.

2
3 MR. NICHOLIA: Here.

4
5 MR. MIKE: Craig Fleener.

6
7 MR. FLEENER: Here.

8
9 MR. MIKE: Davey James, I believe Davey will
10 be coming later. Chuck Miller.

11
12 MR. MILLER: Here.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Nat Good. Nat Good had a medical
15 so he's absent. And Jim Wilde.

16
17 MR. WILDE: Here.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I think we have a
20 quorum.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, between Gerald and I, we
23 said we'll go ahead and cover everything that doesn't come to
24 a vote at this time until we cover all our joint and
25 overlapping proposals and stuff. We also discussed the Staff
26 that Eastern Interior has six active members with three open
27 empty seats so even four would constitute a quorum at this
28 time. And with that, I would like to get going.

29
30 We have quite a few people in attendance.
31 And for your information, if you are appearing to testify on
32 any one of our proposals we would like you to fill out a blue
33 sheet in the back. We will try to limit public testimony to
34 three to four minutes. And please turn them into either
35 Donald Mike or Vince Mathews. Vince, how do we handle the
36 introductions, agency and Staff.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One
39 thing, the testifying cards this time are green and they're
40 in the back. And once they're completed, please give them to
41 Laura or Odessa if Laura's up testifying and then we'll get
42 them up to the Chair and try to incorporate. For those who
43 have not used the cards before, you need to put your name,
44 what topic you want to talk about. If you have a time
45 constraint that you have to testify at a certain time, please
46 note that on there. We'll try to accommodate it, if
47 possible.

48
49 Okay, introduction of agency, Staff and

50 honored guests, it would be difficult to do all the agencies

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1 so it might be best if they come up to testify at that point,
2 then introduce them, if that's okay with the Councils.
3 There's also, in the back of the room, towards the right when
4 you came in, there's a sign-in sheet, that also is what we
5 use to recognize what agencies are here and please fill that
6 out each day that you're here because it helps us keep track,
7 not only of that but for the transcripts to get the correct
8 spellings and who you're representing.

9
10 Mr. Chairman, I need to see if we -- I know
11 that Council members will introduce themselves but we do have
12 an elder that's going to be speaking and let's see if the
13 elder has come yet.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, I see Richard
16 Frank.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So right now would be
19 introduction of Council members and then we would give time
20 to the elder if that's appropriate.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. The Chair
23 would also like to introduce a few people, I mean let people
24 know that we do have three people in attendance from Y-K
25 Delta Subsistence Regional Council up on the table, they will
26 be introducing themselves and expressing their concerns also.

27
28 So at this time, I think only introductions,
29 introducing yourselves would be appropriate because we will
30 convene Western Interior tomorrow morning and Eastern has
31 been meeting for two days so our concerns will be directed at
32 our meeting in the morning. So at this time, I would like
33 you to give your introduction and your home village, starting
34 with Angela.

35
36 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Angela
37 Demientieff from Holy Cross.

38
39 MR. DEACON: Henry Deacon, Grayling.

40
41 MR. JONES: Benedict Jones, Koyukuk.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff from Wiseman.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: Ray Collins from McGrath.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ronald Sam, Alatna.

48
49 MR. NICHOLIA: Gerald Nicholia from Tanana.

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1 MR. FLEENER: Craig Fleener from Fort Yukon.

2
3 MR. MILLER: Charles Miller from Dot Lake.

4
5 MR. WILDE: Jim Wilde from Central.

6
7 MR. SAVAGE: Mike Savage from Lower Kalskag.

8
9 MR. GEORGE: Fritz George.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. At this time I
12 think it's appropriate that we introduce our respected elder
13 originally from Minto and now residing in Fairbanks and ask
14 that he address the Councils as he sees fit and to lead us
15 off in a prayer if possible. Richard Frank, there's an open
16 mike, open table right up front.

17
18 MR. FRANK: Father, we thank you for this
19 day. We pray that you guide us through this day. Be
20 remindful, especially of the elders. Look upon us for
21 guidance as we look upon you Lord for guidance. All in your
22 name. Amen.

23
24 I was just notified just recently and late
25 last night to be here so here I am and honestly to tell you
26 the truth, I don't know what I'm supposed to be speaking in
27 regards to. But if it's subsistence, this is the first time
28 that I'll ever be speaking before a group of people regarding
29 subsistence. Subsistence has been a way of life in the past,
30 a very honorable life that was exercised. The standards that
31 was exercised was very honorable. We treat subsistence as a
32 priority from the beginning of our life.

33
34 My life, putting food on the table was almost
35 100 percent from the time I can remember, all during the time
36 I raised my children. Now, it's vice-versa, 100 percent of
37 what I put on my table is bought through the stores. Due to
38 harsh environmental protections of the land, also the air,
39 and the fish and the fur and the game, in the past we were
40 told to live by the rules and laws and we honored that. The
41 Native people of Alaska had their own standard of rules and
42 laws, what they really cherished, to this day. Their life
43 was a very spiritual life in regards to the animal. They
44 honored that animal. We don't know what the answer is but we
45 abide with what we were told to abide with, rules and
46 regulations and laws and it seemed like that system didn't
47 work, especially for the Native people. We recognize the
48 rights of citizens, we had those rights also in the standard
49 of life in the Alaska Native people. It seemed like they

50 didn't -- no one paid attention to our standards of life that

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1 we honored until it became too late. People from different
2 areas came to Alaska with abundance of wildlife, claiming
3 their rights also. Like I said in the past we've honored
4 their rights, but we have rights also, we have very honorable
5 rights of lifestyle.

6
7 When I say 100 percent of the food was
8 gathered locally, that meant vegetables and fur and edible
9 food. I can remember root cellar in our fish camp where we
10 had gardens, preparation for the winter all through the
11 villages. I can remember just rows and rows of cabbage,
12 carrots, turnips and sacks and sacks upon sacks of potatoes.
13 We don't have that anymore. The people that came with their
14 rights said there is a better way of life. There was no
15 better way of life than the lifestyle that we lived in the
16 past regarding subsistence, which we exercised.

17
18 I can't help but say this, that when we take
19 an animal, which was provided by the Almighty, nobody but
20 you, no one else touches that animal. In regards to our
21 favorite food of ice-cream pie and hamburgers, God knows who
22 touched it.

23
24 Hopefully that can help direct you people
25 making the decision in regards to all the people that are
26 concerned. We don't want to say that our total rights should
27 be first in priority, because as long as people like you can
28 gather like this we can come up with a balance that will be
29 satisfactory for everyone.

30
31 With that, I want to really thank you. (In
32 Native)

33
34 (Applause)

35
36 I'm open for questions and I expect a whole
37 bunch of them. I don't know about you people but I've been
38 walking since 6:00 this morning. So I had a quadruple bypass
39 five years ago and the doctor told me to walk, so hopefully
40 you guys can do the same thing. Questions.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Richard, remain there for a
45 second. For many of you that don't know Richard, he's been
46 working with and through Tanana Chiefs for a good 30 or 40
47 years. He's been my mentor. He's been a big brother. He's
48 been everything to quite a few people throughout the Tanana
49 Chiefs Region. And a lot of his work has been done without

50 recognition so at this time I would ask him to stand, stand,

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1 and ladies and gentlemen, let's give him the recognition he
2 deserves for leading us this far.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 (Applause)

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next item on the agenda is
9 the moment of silence for elders who have passed on since the
10 last meeting. And before I begin, I would like you to notice
11 an empty seat here up front. Ida Hildebrand expressed
12 through a friend, privately, that she be excused from this
13 meeting because of the tragic loss of her younger brother.
14 She is gathering her family and she won't be with us but I
15 would like to also remember, Ida Hildebrand's brother. We
16 know of these people. And as you all know, Ida Hildebrand is
17 an integral part of our subsistence program through the BIA
18 connection. So at this time we'd like a long moment of
19 silence.

20
21 (A moment of silence)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, all of you, for
24 showing up and trying to guide us and help us. At this time
25 we would like to go into meeting ground rules and selection
26 of meeting Chair -- Vince.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you've
29 already determined who's going to be the Chair, I believe,
30 it's going to be Ron. The ground rules that we need to make
31 clear to everybody is that if at all possible it would be
32 easier when you take up an issue to vote on it, that if
33 there's consensus, that we try to work towards consensus. If
34 one Council can't agree, then we'll have to break off and
35 vote separately similar to what we did during the fish
36 monitoring project review. We'll remind you when you get
37 closer to that. But as Chairs, you need to find out where
38 your Councils are going and if it looks like they're not
39 going to line up with their neighbors, then we'll do separate
40 votes on that. I don't expect that but we need to have that
41 there.

42
43 If at all possible during your deliberations,
44 when you're taking up an issue, like proposals and that and
45 recommendations, if you could help us Staff along to
46 understand your justifications. The reason we need that is,
47 as Donald and I and George and Pete and Tom and Jerry and I'm
48 probably leaving out some other people, I apologize for that,
49 as we carry your recommendations through the process and to

50 the Board, we are more comfortable sharing your actual

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1 justifications that you give than our interpretations, so if
2 you can help us with that that would be good.

3

4 I'll see if Donald has any other ground
5 rules, but that would be the main ground rules that I
6 understand at this moment. Donald doesn't have any other
7 ones.

8

9 One last thing, so I don't forget, I will try
10 -- Donald and I will try to remind you that at 11:00 o'clock
11 we have a scheduled public comment period and then at 5:00
12 o'clock. So we'll just need to note that on the record that
13 at 11:00, if there's anybody here to testify, that the table
14 is available and the Councils are welcoming them to come up
15 to testify. We will use the cards as Ron has pointed out if
16 need be or we'll deal with that as it goes along. At 5:00
17 o'clock we may have to adjust that and I'll consult -- and
18 Donald and I will consult with the leadership. We have to be
19 out of here by 5:00, so we'll work on that. If need be,
20 we'll just have to move to the room behind me if we need that
21 additional time. So we'll address that at about 3:00 o'clock
22 if we need to.

23

24 That's all the ground rules that I know of
25 unless there's someone else that knows of a ground rule that
26 we need to discuss.

27

28 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Vince, I have a question
29 here. Since I'm only down to six members and two of them are
30 probably -- one's in the hospital and I don't know where the
31 other one's at, what's my voting deal for my Council?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Are you addressing the quorum
34 question?

35

36 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: My understanding, because you
39 have three resignations that it would be a quorum of the six,
40 so you would need to have four, right now you have four,
41 maybe five, so you're okay at that point and you may end up
42 being at the five. Does that address your concern, Gerald?

43

44 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah. Thank you.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: And again, if we're working
47 towards consensus, we'll note at different times at voting
48 parts of it, if need be. Donald, do you have anything?

49 Okay. Donald and I will be going back and forth here, I do

50 apologize for that but we'll keep both of you informed as we

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1 move along.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. I may be taking off for
4 a little while this afternoon, too, so Gerald and I will be
5 bouncing back and forth, too, because my better half is going
6 through some tests at the hospital and I may have to pick her
7 up.

8

9 Was there anything else on opening business?
10 If not, we'll go into meeting agenda. Concerns, topics,
11 review and agenda approval for the joint meeting. So at this
12 time the Chair will entertain a motion to -- what's that?

13

14 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt the
15 agenda.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded. Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Two things
24 and it's okay, usually you go through Council member
25 concerns, if you don't desire to do that, that's where each
26 member can express concerns in general and then as Staff, we
27 try to see if there's any agenda items that needed to be
28 added. And we also have an additional agenda item that has
29 come up since this was published so I'll wait to see if you
30 want to do Council member concerns.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, as I stated earlier,
33 Eastern has been in session -- did you already express your
34 concerns?

35

36 MR. NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: They have expressed their
39 concerns and I think that anything major will be coming up
40 with our joint meeting anyway, so at this time I would like
41 to hold off on Western Interior's concerns until we convene
42 in the morning. However, at this time, I would like to give
43 special recognition to YK-Delta Council members, because they
44 may be leaving tomorrow, if you have special concerns, I
45 would like to recognize either Mike Savage and/or Fritz
46 George.

47

48 Thank you.

49

MR. SAVAGE: Yeah, I got one. Is the closure

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1 of subsistence and leaving the, what do you call it,
2 sportfishing open. You heard about that? I heard a rumor
3 about that and I'm not so sure and I'd like to hear your
4 guy's opinion on it because we're having our meeting next
5 week. So I'd like to hear something about that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. If I forget
8 that, remind me sometime during the day and if it doesn't
9 come on the floor, remind me again. Okay, Fritz, do you have
10 any concerns?

11
12 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It
13 looks like my concern now is like what he said about the
14 opening of the -- you know, the continuation of the
15 sportfisheries while subsistence is going to be closing for
16 three days per week this coming summer. And another one is
17 that I live pretty much close to the mouth of the Kuskokwim
18 and when we're drifting we're catching salmon, seems like
19 before, you know, in abundance but the salmon we catch, the
20 schools they don't reach the spawning grounds, where do they
21 go? Does anybody have the answer?

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I see Alex Nick,
26 from Y-K, did you have any concerns? I'd just like to
27 recognize you now while we're in joint session.

28
29 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only
30 concern that was brought up to my attention just before we
31 left is what was mentioned by Mike Savage regarding the
32 sportfishing versus subsistence fishing. If the Department
33 decides to close the subsistence and keep the sportfishery
34 open throughout the summer in YK-Delta, that's the only thing
35 that I have this point.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Alex. At this time
40 I would like to express my profound, I don't know how to say,
41 you're welcome here and you have always made us welcome at
42 your meetings. At this time both Craig Fleener and I are
43 scheduled to be in attendance at your Kotlik meeting, whether
44 we do show up or not may be a different story. Do you have
45 a comment? Gerald.

46
47 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I was just
48 wondering if the Yk-Delta knows that Frank Rue has gave
49 orders to his staff and agencies that they're not to

50 participate with this Board and our Federal program and I was

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1 just wondering if you guys had light of that and have any
2 concerns? Why I brought this up is that for all the times --
3 the two agencies trying to manage the same resources, that
4 they have to work together to manage it properly for the
5 people that use it and I sure appreciate the State agency
6 people that are here today. I sure appreciate that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. At this
9 time the Chair should acknowledge that any of you that
10 realize that the State Department will probably not be at all
11 of our meetings because of financial, not difficulties, but
12 financial bickering between the State and the Federals. But
13 I do see a lot of State Department people here. I would like
14 to give a special welcome to Polly Weaver who has been a very
15 close ally of ours throughout the Western Interior and Bonnie
16 Borba. As we call on State Department people, I would just
17 like to say thank you for being here in advance.

18
19 I understand that Eastern drafted a letter
20 that will be coming up on the agenda that all three Councils
21 go on record in reviewing and taking some kind of action on
22 this letter some time today.

23
24 Vince, what was next here?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, you had a motion on the
27 floor to adopt the agenda and it was seconded and we do have
28 some amendments to the agenda that would be available for you
29 to maybe possibly incorporate. One would be -- Jerry's
30 passing it out is to give you a process update on how we
31 would deal with fishery proposals and if you need more
32 discussion on that Tom Kron will explain that, but it would
33 be coming under 2A on your meeting agenda. The next one
34 would be, and I didn't get a chance to talk to Carl Jack on
35 this, but I believe he'd be comfortable with it, would be, to
36 move the partnership with the fish monitoring which is under
37 B4 up to the cooperative efforts with tribes and tribal
38 organizations. That would be another slight change on the
39 agenda there. So with that, I'll wait until you look at the
40 additions to the agenda that's being passed out. And if you
41 have questions on that, Tom or I or Donald can answer them.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair will
44 open the floor to questions or amendments to the agenda.

45
46 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question
47 for Vince.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Craig.

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1 MR. FLEENER: I don't really understand this.
2 Does this saying that we're putting a proposal -- we want to
3 put a proposal on the agenda, because this says, A2 Proposals
4 requesting changes to the Federal regulations, so is this a
5 proposal of sorts or what is this? What would be a good
6 topic for this so I can understand what it's really about?
7

8 MR. MATHEWS: I'll let Tom address that but
9 it's mainly process that we're laying out there. It's the
10 process.
11

12 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Craig. If you'll
13 remember two days ago at the start of your meeting it was
14 noted that there wasn't a discussion on the agenda about the
15 fact that fish proposals are due on March 30th. And what the
16 intent of this was, just to allow some time for the Councils
17 to talk about that issue and, again, it's your call, what you
18 would choose to do. But again, the fish proposals are due on
19 March 30th, which is about three weeks away and so that date
20 is coming up. And, again, the discussion two days ago was
21 that it would probably be good to spend a little bit of time
22 talking about that.
23

24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. FLEENER: Thanks for the clarification.
27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.
29

30 MR. NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
31 like to develop proposals for March 30th as we go along? How
32 come we just don't do it like we usually do, when we come up
33 to an issue and where it comes to developing a proposal, we
34 could do it then? I think these two Councils have already
35 been through that, we already met there one time and I think
36 we could develop proposals on the way that we go if an issue
37 comes up.
38

39 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Gerald, again,
40 that's another option, it's your call how you want to handle
41 it. But, again, it was noted, like I said, two days ago that
42 there wasn't a discussion on there about fish proposals and
43 the due date and it's your call how you want to handle it or
44 if you want to do proposals at all.
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions or
47 amendments on the agenda? Vince.
48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Well, there is one that

50 I forgot. Eastern Interior deferred Proposals 25 and 34,

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1 they, by error, were not listed as overlap proposals so we
2 need to add to the agenda, 25, which deals with brown bear,
3 I believe in Unit 24 and Proposal 34 which deals with beaver
4 in Unit 21(E). My suggestion on that would either to be to
5 start of with those when we come up to proposals or add them
6 on the end, that would be on Page 2 of your agenda. It might
7 be easier to add them on the end. You'll have copies of
8 those analysis in your individual books, they won't be in the
9 yellow-covered book that covers today. So for Mike Savage
10 and Fritz George, we'll have to get you copies of either
11 Eastern or Western Interior's book so you can track along.
12 But those were deferred to the joint meeting because they
13 have implications to both regions.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Monty and then Rod.

16
17 MR. MILLARD: I hope you take this proposal
18 opportunity very seriously. I've pointed out in the past
19 that there's very little that can be accomplished in-season
20 because things happen so rapidly, so if there are things that
21 occur in-season that you're unhappy about or you think there
22 should be an effective change made in regulations, this is
23 your opportunity to change in-season management. So this is
24 an opportunity for you to start thinking about how we can do
25 things differently in the future.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Monty. I think
28 that it's -- after last year, it seems that it's impossible
29 to do anything in-season anyway except to pull nets as
30 requested. And through our winter meetings on fisheries, I
31 think that we've pretty much got most of our wishes in place
32 or being looked at and I can't see where else we can go at
33 this time. We may have more discussion when we come up on
34 the outlook for 2001. Rod.

35
36 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a
37 point of clarification. There's really sort of two proposal
38 processes. One is for the project proposals which were
39 recently discussed at the Regional Advisory Council meetings
40 last month as well as regulatory proposals. And the handout
41 today is relative to regulatory proposals. I just wanted to
42 make that clarification.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Rod. I know
45 we covered the project proposals pretty well in-depth down at
46 Anchorage recently so it's the regulatory proposals that you
47 want us to pay more attention to. Okay, thank you. Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: The Alaska Department of Fish

50 and Game produces proposals for the Fisheries Board and I

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1 would encourage the agency personnel, if they see a viable
2 proposal to propose that so that the Councils can be aware of
3 that idea and review that idea and move it forward. So I
4 would encourage the Federal subsistence managers, if they
5 come up with a good idea, put that into a proposal and put
6 that before the Council so that we could review those. For
7 the Councils to conceive of all these various problems, I
8 know that we have some very competent Federal managers on
9 board now, and I would like to see them bring proposals
10 before the Council for our review.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Point well
13 taken. As many of you know, our Koyukuk River advisory
14 coordinator for game has not been seen on the Koyukuk for the
15 last three or four years and we get these proposals before
16 us, about two minutes before meeting time, so I think that
17 sooner or later, I think that I will ask Jack to draft up a
18 resolution to that effect stating his concerns on drafting
19 these proposals ahead of time so that we can pass them or
20 amend them or do whatever we want with them. I think that
21 that's a good idea because we are busy out there. And as
22 Gerald well knows, this Chairmanship is time consuming, you
23 have teleconference after teleconference and a lot of times
24 we aren't even prepared for that.

25
26 We do have a motion on the floor to adopt the
27 agenda, is there amendments?

28
29 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I wonder if the mover
30 and the seconder would agree with a friendly amendment to
31 their motion to adopt the agenda with the revisions of this
32 A2 proposals, requested changes in Federal regulations and
33 with the other revisions we have?

34
35 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, yes, I'd agree with
36 that and my only question would be is where should we put
37 Proposal 24 and 33 with brown bear and beaver, should we put
38 that at the beginning of the overlap proposals or should we
39 put it at the end?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your call.

42
43 MR. FLEENER: Do you have a preference,
44 Vince?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think since the
47 agenda's been published pretty widely that Proposal 11 would
48 be up number 1, that it should probably go at the end.

49

MR. FLEENER: Okay, I've got no problem with

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1 that and I'd make that motion -- or I would like to make that
2 amendment to my motion and if the seconder would go along
3 with it.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: I second that.

6
7 MR. MILLER: Question.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the floor
10 to adopt the agenda with revisions as discussed. The
11 question has been called for. All those in favor of the
12 motion signify by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

17
18 (No opposing votes)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Micki Stickman
23 has called in and I'm waiting for a phone conversation back
24 from him that he might be available so we can keep moving
25 along but when he -- if he decides that he's available for
26 teleconference I need to call him up to get him on the system
27 here, just to inform you. So it might be best to just start
28 off by moving along and then if I get the confirmation back
29 from the office here that he is going to be available then we
30 can patch him in, if that's all right with you.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the Chair will note
35 again and state emphatically, that we do have a quorum so I
36 would just like to move on with the agenda. The next item on
37 the agenda is the Federal Subsistence Program update, A,
38 Cooperative efforts with tribes and tribal organizations and
39 we have Carl Jack to address these issues and I believe that
40 he has an addition and/or a deletion to make. Carl.

41
42 MR. JACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
43 presentation will cover a couple of topics. One is the DOI
44 policy on tribal consultation and the second one I will
45 combine A2 with B4 because they address the same subject
46 matter. Now, on the Department policy on tribal
47 consultation, it's in Tab B and it's for your information and
48 does not require action by the Councils.

49

This policy was signed on January 18 by the

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1 six Federal agencies. It is specific to Alaska. The
2 background and purpose are outlined in paragraph one and two,
3 and the key points relate to the policy itself and the second
4 part entitles responsibilities; process and procedures.
5 Steps 1 through 9, those are the specific steps on how tribal
6 consultation with tribes should be conducted between the
7 Federal agencies and the tribes. The policy also includes
8 recommendations to the Federal agencies by the negotiators of
9 the policy itself. Now, the implementation of the policy
10 within the Office of Subsistence Management is probably new
11 grounds for OSM and probably to the other Federal agencies,
12 probably with the exception of Bureau of Indian Affairs. As
13 you know, Title VIII of ANILCA, the Federal agencies are
14 implementing that as a Federal mandate whether they like it
15 or not. So to the extent to which this policy will apply to
16 the specific programs within OSM, I guess, is somewhat -- I
17 think it's probably yet to be clearly defined.

18
19 For example, will tribal consultation be
20 required for, say, like the regulatory process. So in my
21 position, as the Native liaison, in trying to enhance the
22 communications between the Office of Subsistence Management
23 and the tribes insofar as working with the tribes, I will be
24 essentially guided by this policy.

25
26 I mentioned earlier about the negotiators.
27 The Alaska Inter-Tribal Council was the prime negotiator on
28 this policy and the provisions included within the policy.
29 And the effort was made to conclude the negotiations prior to
30 the close of the Clinton administration. So as you note, the
31 date where the policy was signed was a couple days before the
32 end of the Clinton administration.

33
34 Now, insofar as contracts, that, I think is
35 a separate issue from the tribal consultation requirements of
36 the Department. Questions on the policy itself or should I
37 go right into the next part?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig, you got a question?

40
41 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just in
42 just review of this, I always see the same type of writing
43 and I sort of have a hard time with it, in number 1 under
44 responsibilities; process and procedures, it says tribes
45 should be notified at the earliest practicable time to fully
46 inform tribes of proposed agency actions that will have
47 substantial direct effect on the tribes. You know, it seems
48 to me when the tribes are supposed to have such a close
49 relationship with the Federal government, that tribes

50 shouldn't just be notified, but that tribes should be

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1 included and asked to participate when there are going to be
2 any sort of substantial actions that are going to have an
3 effect on tribes. We've sat around too long and just been
4 notified of actions that are going to affect us. I think
5 what needs to take place is that we need to not only notified
6 but included and asked to participate when there's going to
7 be any sort of regulation proposed that is going to have any
8 affect on tribes. To me, that's what this sovereign
9 relationship we have with the Federal government is supposed
10 to be, not just an information dissemination but an actual
11 participation. A level of participation that's much higher
12 than send them a letter, you know, and -- but I see this in
13 all kinds of Federal writing and State writing as well, I
14 guess, but I think we need to move beyond notification and we
15 need to get into inclusion and participation on an equal
16 level which is where we're supposed to be.

17

18 MR. JACK: Agreed.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, you said this was done
23 -- Carl, you said this was done in conjunction with AITC?

24

25 MR. JACK: The prime negotiator for this
26 agreement was the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council working very
27 closely with the special assistant, Marilyn Heiman. As I
28 said, the extent of which the individual tribes were
29 involved, I don't know because I was not involved in those.
30 But the prime negotiator, again, is the Alaska Inter-Tribal
31 Council that resulted in this policy.

32

33 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, Carl, since you're the
34 liaison for the Federal Board for tribal governments and most
35 of us here represent tribal governments, it would show good
36 faith from the Federal Board and this policy to have, since
37 it was worked with AITC, to have Mike Williams be one of the
38 signatories on it. So it would be showing good faith to all
39 the tribes that AITC represents.

40

41 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

42

43 MR. JACK: I will pass that on to AITC.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

46

47 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, any time that we enter
48 into any kind of agreement or there's something that's going
49 to directly effect tribes, that would be another nice thing

50 is to have the thing signed by the people who are actually

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1 agreeing to the document.

2
3 MR. JACK: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. FLEENER: There's lots of stuff that
6 comes down from State and Federal agencies, that when the
7 tribes get it, they just look at it in awe because they
8 wonder, you know, who participated in this and where was our
9 involvement and why wasn't I called. So, lines with
10 signatures for tribal representatives would certainly make it
11 a lot more powerful. But I wouldn't sign it with saying,
12 that the tribes should just be notified, to me, that's -- in
13 no way does that fulfill the trust responsibility that the
14 Federal government has to tribes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Craig. Anymore
17 questions for Carl? If not, go on.

18
19 MR. JACK: I'll go on to the next subject
20 matter, this is the proposed partnerships on fisheries. It's
21 in Tab B, a couple of pages after the DOI policy. So in the
22 interest of time, I will not read that whole page but will
23 make my -- frame my presentation by answering the what, when,
24 how questions. What is the program about? Why was the
25 program started? When will it start? How will the program
26 be implemented?

27
28 To answer the what question, it's basically
29 capacity building program for the Alaska Native
30 organizations, i.e., tribes and tribal organization and other
31 rural organizations. And it is intended to allow these
32 entities to hire biologists, social-scientists to do
33 fisheries investigation within their geographic areas,
34 project development, ID subsistence issues particular to that
35 area, education and outreach and coordination with Federal
36 and State agencies. So that's the basic premise on what the
37 program is about.

38
39 To answer the why questions, this project was
40 started at the request of the Alaska Native organization.
41 There was a series of meetings that happened last year when
42 Federal subsistence management started the fisheries program
43 and this program evolved from those meetings.

44
45 When will it start? The process started
46 already. The first part of the process involved pre-
47 consultation with the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, the Alaska
48 Federation of Natives and RuralCap. Those meetings were held
49 in December, last December and January. For purpose of

50 talking with them, how best to do tribal consultation. And

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1 three options were looked at. One, a long process, tribal
2 consultation with individual 221 tribes. At the other end of
3 the spectrum was no tribal consultation but to do contracts
4 or agreements. So the group recommended that we should
5 follow the RFT process, so with that, the description as
6 outlined in your booklet was developed. It's now in the
7 process of being reviewed by the 221 tribes. The comment
8 period started the middle of February and will end on March
9 15th. Upon receipt of those comments, the Staff will develop
10 an RFP around those comments and that will probably be -- and
11 the RFP, thereafter, will be released to the streets, public,
12 Alaska Native organizations for them to prepare proposals.
13 Then that will probably be the end of March. Sixty days will
14 be allowed for them to -- for the RFP to be out in the
15 street, which will put it probably to the end of May, another
16 60 days will be allowed for the tribes, tribal organizations
17 to develop their proposals and get them into OSM. We're
18 probably talking about roughly July 30th. And another 45
19 days will be allowed for the review of the proposals and
20 selection for funding of the proposals. And then very
21 roughly that will probably be the end of -- pretty close to
22 the end of the fiscal year so these time frames for this
23 proposal.

24
25 How will the projects be implemented?
26 Through 809 agreements. These are considered as public
27 assistance projects and pretty much mirror the grant process.

28
29 So everyone here is encouraged to review
30 what's in the booklet and if you have any comments to submit
31 those by March 15th. We have already received a couple of
32 comments, one from Bristol Bay region and the Aleutians
33 stating very strongly that they should not be combined
34 together and everyone probably knows the reasons why.

35
36 Now, there are constraints on these projects,
37 number of positions, nine. And recently there was talk
38 within the agency to reduce those to seven positions mainly
39 because of shortfalls that are occurring. Now, we may have
40 flexibility on the six geographic areas. The Yukon and
41 Kuskokwim are stand-alone, whereby under the initial -- under
42 this proposal that is now under review, Bristol Bay,
43 Aleutians and Kodiak were combined together and the Gulf of
44 Alaska combined with Southeast and the Seward Peninsula,
45 Kotzebue area and Arctic, North Slope combined together.
46 Again, we may have some flexibility on those geographic
47 areas. And the effects of funding these proposals will be
48 the total amount will be deducted from the FIS projects. So
49 this program, when implemented, will have a direct impact on

50 the number of fisheries projects that everyone went through,

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1 of example, a month ago.

2

3 That concludes my presentation on this.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. You notice
6 there weren't too many questions, I think simply because we
7 went through this about a month ago and then I think we
8 already prioritized our positions on which projects we wanted
9 funded and everything. I thank you for the update. Craig,
10 you have a question.

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My only
13 question is, do you know the total dollar amount for these
14 nine positions?

15

16 MR. JACK: There were talks, roughly, about
17 125 dollar per position, we're probably talking in the
18 neighborhood in excess of one million for the whole project.

19

20 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
23 Carl? Fritz.

24

25 MR. GEORGE: Carl, can you explain the last
26 sentence here, under general provisions number 4?

27

28 MR. JACK: General provisions number 4.

29

30 MR. GEORGE: Yes.

31

32 MR. JACK: This is on the DOI?

33

34 MR. GEORGE: Under Tab B.

35

36 MR. JACK: Under Tab -- I'm lost.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this on the agreement, the
39 signed agreement?

40

41 MR. JACK: Okay.

42

43 MR. FLEENER: It's right above the
44 signatures.

45

46 MR. JACK: Nothing in this agreement is
47 intended to expand contract or otherwise limit the
48 sovereignty held by each tribe. It basically states that, to
49 say -- what do they call it.....

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1 MR. FLEENER: A disclaimer.

2

3 MR. JACK:it basically says that it will
4 not expand or decrease the authority of the tribes as
5 currently written in the statutes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So this then would be as Craig
8 said, a disclaimer or indemnification clause?

9

10 MR. JACK: Yeah. It's -- yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
13 Carl? IF not, thank you for being here Carl.

14

15 MR. JACK: (In Native)

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're still
18 trying to work on -- we're having phone difficulties on that
19 and we'll just be moving around and the meeting will go on.
20 But phones aren't working well at Micki's house so we're
21 trying to get that straightened out.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Again, I state, that we do have
24 a quorum and we will fit him in if needed. Anything else,
25 Vince?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: No, other than for the public,
28 I failed to announce we do have extra copies of the meeting
29 booklet for today, it's yellow-covered and I was just going
30 to go back and ask Staff to -- the box is underneath the back
31 table there, there's not unlimited numbers of them but if
32 people could share that would be great, that way you could
33 track along with the Council's actions. So it's a yellow-
34 covered book in the back and we'll try to lay those out for
35 you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, on the agenda we have
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program; who's covering this,
39 please?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: That's going to be a multi-
42 approach. Right now the first topic was going to be Tom Kron
43 and myself, and then the second topic was going to be Tom.
44 There'll be various people we'll be calling up, back and
45 forth on this. Oh, I'm sorry, yeah, we have.....

46

47 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.....

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, we have -- I'm still

50 worried about calling me names in Nulato.

00022

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don't.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: But anyways, I forgot, we have
4 the item that Tom passed out earlier which would be the
5 process of dealing with changes to Federal regulations so
6 maybe Tom would like to take the lead on that. That is to
7 give you the process to give you background on what happened
8 with the Board of Fish, possibly, and also the reason we
9 requested this is, if there are proposals to be written that
10 we can start assigning Staff to do some rough drafts so that
11 we can get back before the Council before close of business
12 today. We're not saying that you need to write proposals, we
13 just want to be prepared in case you do. So we do have
14 what's called A2, which was handed out, so maybe Tom could
15 take that up. And I apologize for jumping up to.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig, you had a question.

18

19 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair, I have a
20 question that sort of deals with what we're getting into but
21 it's kind of a mix between a fish and wildlife question.
22 We've been getting into fisheries management now for quite a
23 while and a whole bunch of money is being directed towards
24 that but I'm sort of wondering if we're actually almost
25 getting out of wildlife management by paying so much
26 attention to fisheries. Not that we shouldn't pay so much
27 attention to fisheries, but I'm wondering if there's ever
28 going to be a time and a place where the Federal government
29 is supporting the residents of the state here at the same
30 level when it comes to wildlife management and if there'd
31 ever be a time when we could enter into these same types of
32 agreements, submitting these same types of proposals to do
33 wildlife projects in our areas.

34

35 And maybe that's a question somebody can
36 think about for awhile and when we transition over into the
37 wildlife proposal discussions later on, maybe somebody could
38 talk about that a little bit. But it seems that we almost
39 spend -- we're spending tons of money and tons of time on
40 fish and we're -- to me, it seems like we're almost leaving
41 wildlife out of the equation now and spending less and less
42 time on that and more and more on fisheries. And I want to
43 make sure we don't forget wildlife, especially considering
44 that's what I'm primarily interested in in my professional
45 career. So if someone out there can think about that or
46 everybody think about it and maybe come back with some sort
47 of discussion later on, I'd be happy to hear about that.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to
4 answer his question but give him a process, that in the past
5 you've used the annual report and you've used your
6 recommendations on proposals, both in Eastern and Western
7 Interior that gave support to individual agencies to go ahead
8 and get funding for wildlife. So that -- I just want on the
9 record, that in the past that's the process that's been used
10 to get funding for wildlife projects. And I'm drawing a
11 blank of which ones some of those are. But there was a
12 couple of them.

13

14 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair, I recognize
15 that, Vince, and I appreciate that you reminding me. We're
16 still using that process but it's nowhere near the same
17 process that we have for fisheries. I can't submit a
18 proposal to OSM to find out the wolf population in the Yukon
19 Flats and their impacts on the moose population right now, at
20 least, as far as I know I can't. And I'd like to see some
21 sort of a similar aligning process that would allow me to do
22 something like that. So maybe they can ask Uncle Ted for
23 five million bucks for wildlife management or something.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. FLEENER: Anyways, I'll leave it alone
28 for now and maybe someone can think about it and come back
29 with some discussion later on.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Craig. Jack, do
34 you have anything?

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I drafted a
37 resolution to read before the joint councils regarding
38 encouraging the Staff to submit proposals and I'll just read
39 it as I've written it here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: This would be between the Joint
44 Western and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils to
45 the Federal Board, Resolution on Fisheries Proposals. We
46 would encourage the very capable Federal subsistence
47 fisheries staff to submit fisheries proposals to the Federal
48 Subsistence Program. Whereas, the Federal program has hired
49 many staff who have many years of experience with these

50 fisheries; whereas the staff may recognize regulatory

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1 remedies to address specific management effects on
2 subsistence resources or users; be it resolved, the proposal
3 submission by Staff are welcomed to the Councils.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. If you want
6 to introduce -- do you want action on this?

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to make a motion
9 to adopt this resolution to be submitted to the program.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

12
13 MR. FLEENER: I'd second the motion but I'd
14 like to -- maybe you could pass that down here so we could
15 read over it a little bit.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: All right.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, at this time I think the
20 only thing we can take action on is the concept of this
21 resolution or the intent of this resolution. We may get a
22 finalized resolution to be passed by the Western Interior in
23 a day or so, maybe the last day. But for discussion
24 purposes, I would like to see it on the floor at this time.
25 Because as many of you know, we are out in the woods, we are
26 traveling on business and we don't have computers in front of
27 us and we can't really keep track of any kind of action or
28 anything that's happening on fisheries and game at all times
29 out in the bush, other than paid personnel, we're just stuck
30 with drafting last minute proposals or just trying to remedy
31 what's in the book. Any further discussion?

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, as I stated before,
38 it was my intent like the Department of Fish and Game submits
39 proposals to remedy management problems, I encourage the
40 Federal Staff. I have perceived a reluctance by the Federal
41 Staff to submit proposals and I would like to encourage the
42 Federal Staff to submit proposals that we can review to
43 decide on their merit. But I would like to encourage those
44 proposal submissions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

47
48 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I
49 agree with Jack. I think it's a good idea. What it will do

50 is it will encourage the Staff to submit proposals that they

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1 think are a good idea. And they're going to be submitting
2 proposals that they think is a good idea and from listening
3 to us, and they could probably word things, you know, a lot
4 quicker and a lot better, considering their decades upon
5 decades of experience. And I think that it will make our job
6 a little easier. I don't even know if we need to do it in
7 the form of a resolution, I think maybe just a letter coming
8 from out joint Councils to the program saying we encourage
9 you to submit proposals. I think that would be strong enough
10 and, you know, if we look over the proposals and don't like
11 them we can always toss them out. But I think it would be a
12 good idea for the entire program if they would submit
13 proposals and work with us on them.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince and then Gerald.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I was just addressing that
18 if you did decide to pass this or if you needed it before
19 passing, to have copies of that, we can work that out either
20 through typing it up or whatever and get you copies of that.

21
22 The other thing is, is the resolutions do
23 make it easier to track, sometimes, than a letter, because
24 people will talk about different resolutions. So those are
25 options for you, if you decide to move forward on this. We
26 can get copies of it if you need it before you pass it, get
27 copies if you need it, afterwards.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

32
33 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, it's been moved and
34 seconded and I like the resolution and I call for the
35 question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, for my clarification do
38 you want this completed in a resolution form and do you want
39 action now?

40
41 MR. NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we just adopting the
44 intent and the concept of this resolution at this time?

45
46 MR. NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the formal adoption will
49 come up later; is that where we stand right now? Do we have

50 a parliamentarian in the house?

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1 MR. MATHEWS: No, you have a motion and a
2 second and there's been almost a question on it so now would
3 be the time to take action on it. Jack can talk more about
4 the intent. I'm reading the intent is that it's freeing up
5 Staff, if they see a need for regulatory proposals to draft
6 one to address it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: That's my understanding of the
11 intent.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not only to draft one to
14 remedy the existing ones. If they can see where we can
15 improve on anything, that's the way I read it, right?

16
17 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think it
18 basically gives -- requests that they participate more fully
19 in proposals of any kind.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: What would be the title of
22 this resolution?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: We would just, as far as
25 tracking it, would probably call it Joint Regional Council
26 01-01, whatever the date -- however you do that, that's how
27 we would track it. And then if there's any concern by the
28 program on the intent of the resolution they have the option
29 to respond in writing or have Staff respond to it. So that's
30 that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, fine. Let's call it
33 Resolution -- Joint Resolution 01-01, and the question has
34 been called. All those in favor of adopting Resolution 01-01
35 signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried, resolutions
44 passed. Now, where were we?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we were up to
47 where Tom was going to go over the addition to the agenda
48 that you approved.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Tom Kron.

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1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again, I'll make
2 this very quick. I guess, again the main intent was to alert
3 you to the upcoming deadline for regulatory proposals. We've
4 provided you some additional material. If you'd look in the
5 blue folder, there's a package of fisheries material --
6 supplemental fisheries material with a clip on the top. A
7 variety of things in there. At the back, on the blue pages
8 within there is a description of the proposal -- regulatory
9 proposal process. How they will be dealt with. Again, the
10 proposals need to be in by March 30th. They'll be analyzed
11 this summer. Each of the Councils will get a chance to
12 review them and vote on them in the fall and then in December
13 the Federal Subsistence Board will take up those proposals
14 and the items that are approved then would go into
15 regulations about a year from now.

16
17 The other thing that I've provided you is
18 with the wonderful art on the front, you'll each have a copy
19 of the most recent fisheries regulations. These have just
20 come out, but again, these incorporate the changes that were
21 made by the Federal Board this last December. But both, in
22 this packet and in these are copies of the blank proposal for
23 you, so I guess in terms of just describing the process I'll
24 stop there. There's more information in there if you choose
25 to read it.

26
27 And I guess, quickly moving along, the State
28 Board of Fisheries met in January, many of you were able to
29 come in to participate in that process and actually
30 participated on committees when they reviewed the
31 regulations. The State Board did make significant changes to
32 subsistence fishing regulations for both the Kuskokwim and
33 the Yukon. Under Tab B in your yellow folders, there's a
34 very brief summary of the changes that the Board of Fisheries
35 did make and, again, this is a draft, we're still waiting for
36 word back from the Department of Fish and Game on this. But
37 a number of Department of Fish and Game Staff were able to
38 review this initially but again it's still marked draft. But
39 essentially Jerry Berg and I have gone through proposal by
40 proposal and then for the key management plans and provided
41 a very brief summary of what happened. A number of folks I
42 think -- a number of Council members participated on the
43 committed but then you had to go home before the final votes
44 were taken so, again, this is a summary just for your
45 information.

46
47 But at present there are some significant
48 differences between the State regulations and the Federal
49 regulations. In some cases, the Federal regulations are more

50 restrictive to subsistence users than are the State

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1 regulations. Again, Jerry and I can help with questions. I
2 know we're fortunate to have quite a number of Department of
3 Fish and Game Staff here as well that participated very
4 actively in that process. So again, the main thing was just
5 to alert you to those changes and see where you wanted to go
6 with it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that conclude your report
11 at this time?

12
13 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 MR. NICHOLIA: I have a question.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald, question.

18
19 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, this may be way out of
20 context for what we're doing but we spent a lot of time on
21 these children's drawn pictures and stuff and you said that
22 they'll be on every cover of the book and what's this picture
23 doing, it's not one of the children's. They spent a lot of
24 time on that, you know.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I'll try to take that to my
29 direction. You'll notice -- well, Eastern Interior had the
30 children's art work on it, Western Interior book has it on,
31 that book did not, for whatever reason. But it should also
32 be noted that the regulation book that Tom pointed out, that
33 shows that art work also. And I think respect should be
34 given to the original person who started this whole idea,
35 Craig Fleener, and now it's come to task. For those who
36 didn't attend the Board meeting, the response on it was
37 overwhelming. I don't know the exact figures but round
38 figures was 1,200 to 1,300 pieces of art work was submitted.
39 We did some outreach before that but it was not extensive.
40 And then the Chairs selected it. So I always like to pick on
41 Craig but anyway, the point is it was his idea through
42 Eastern Interior and now it's come to fruit. It took about,
43 how long, about three years. But it's here and anyways,
44 we'll take it to heart that future books should have the art
45 work on the front of it for the meeting booklets.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Craig.

48
49 MR. FLEENER: Yes, as part of this

50 presentation here, I wonder if some comment could be made in

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1 regards to the Board of Fish proposals and in regards to
2 Fritz' comments earlier with the continued opening for
3 sportfishing and closing subsistence fishing, are there
4 proposals in here that you know of since you went over these
5 and are you prepared to make any kind of comment as to the
6 concerns with keeping sportfishing open and closing
7 subsistence fishing?

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

10
11 MR. BERG: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair and
12 Craig. I guess since Fritz' and Mike's comments were
13 directed towards the Kuskokwim I can help address those. I
14 did write that summary that's in your book that Tom was
15 referring to for the Kuskokwim and there's a number of
16 changes that were made by the Board of Fisheries on the
17 Kuskokwim. I know we have a number of Fish and Game staff
18 that can also help answer questions. But in general, they
19 did come up with a fishing schedule for the Kuskokwim, and
20 that fishing schedule, subsistence fishing schedule will
21 allow subsistence fishing to occur four days a week and be
22 closed three days a week and that will be implemented from
23 downstream and then incrementally implemented upstream as the
24 fish move upstream.

25
26 The concern that Mike and Fritz raised was
27 that sportfishing will continue to remain open even during --
28 my understanding is that even during the subsistence
29 closures. And the Fish and Game has issued a press release
30 and they are going to reduce sportfishing harvest limits to
31 one fish per day so they are making restrictions at the same
32 time that there are subsistence restrictions.

33
34 There's also an effort on the Kuskokwim that
35 we're going to try to put together a cooperative appeal to
36 conserve chinook salmon similar to what we did last year and
37 we're hoping that people will voluntarily reduce some of
38 their harvest of chinook salmon to help conserve the chinook
39 for future runs and help meet escapements.

40
41 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair. It seems like it's
42 kind of weird sounding, because you've got subsistence
43 fishermen here who want to subsistence fish and three days a
44 week they're going to have to turn into sportfishermen if
45 they want to catch fish. And so for them to continue to live
46 their subsistence lifestyle they have to become
47 sportfishermen three days of the week and catch one fish. I
48 mean I'm not chastising you because it's not your proposal or
49 you didn't adopt it but I got to let somebody know that this

50 is kind of weird sounding that we're closing subsistence and

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1 keeping sportfishing open. And so if these guys want to go
2 eat on the three days that it's closed they have to become
3 sportfishermen because they're not allowed to subsistence
4 fish. That sounds like a Katie John sort of problem to me,
5 you know.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

8
9 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I think it got a little
10 mixed up there. Craig, is that, what they mean by
11 sportfishers, the sportfishers fishing for pike and stuff and
12 the subsistence fishers fishing for kings and stuff. My
13 question to this Federal program is does ANILCA prioritize
14 sportfishing over subsistence fishing and do you guys really
15 follow ANILCA's provisions to provide for these people's
16 subsistence rights over sportfishing and if sportfishing's
17 going to be -- if subsistence is going to be closed, I say
18 sportfishing should be closed, too, and if this is on Federal
19 lands you guys got to follow the provisions of ANILCA or
20 you're going to have another Katie John.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

23
24 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have discussed
25 this issue amongst the Federal Staff and I've talked to our
26 in-season manager in Bethel, Mike Reardon, who's the Yukon-
27 Delta Refuge manager and it is a concern that we have and we
28 would certainly acknowledge any requests that come from the
29 Council, if you want to submit a request. There is no
30 proposal before the Federal program at this time to do
31 anything about sportfishing and it would probably be more
32 appropriate for the Council to make some sort of a request.
33 I don't know there may be some -- I know there's some Fish
34 and Game staff here that might be able to address the
35 sportfish concerns, maybe more directly than I can. But on
36 the Federal side, we can react to maybe a special action
37 request that comes from the Council to address that concern.

38
39 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair, what I was getting
40 at, are you following the mandates of ANILCA? This is
41 Federal land you're speaking of and you're allowing
42 sportfishing and closing subsistence, you got to follow the
43 first priorities.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Two things. Yes, we are bound
48 by ANILCA and that's why this program is here. The second
49 thing is, maybe the Councils are trying to put the cart

50 before the horse here and that's partially because of the way

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1 we've been presenting it. We need to get the full
2 understanding of what the Board of Fish did and what actions
3 they're recommending along with the Alaska Department of Fish
4 and Game before we discuss all this. I think it might be, in
5 fairness to them, to lay out what their plans are and then at
6 that point, as Jerry has pointed out, you have the options of
7 a regulatory proposal that would go into effect in 2002 or
8 you can request a special action, which would be addressed by
9 the Board in a timely manner.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. It's also
12 at our pleasure that we try to accommodate YK-Delta because
13 they'll be here only one day and that's why we want to take
14 full advantage of this joint meeting. So at this time, Fritz
15 or Alex.

16
17 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Another
18 one that sort of bugs me when I learned about is that,
19 sportfish biologist during the committee meeting in Bethel,
20 I think it was in Bethel, reported that spawning salmon are
21 now a tourist attraction. To one of the boys from Tunt, he
22 went up the Eek River for hunting, they ran into salmon
23 spawning and he said that when they're so close -- when
24 they're that close to the male salmon, the male kept away
25 from the spawning female. It sort of makes me concerned
26 about things like tourists that are watching the spawning
27 salmon are keeping the salmon from getting fertilized.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fritz. Again, we
30 try to accommodate YK-Delta, but I think that a lot of this
31 stuff will be taken care of at the YK-Delta meeting. Alex.
32 That is good information, though, you've got to take that and
33 make use of that information.

34
35 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As
36 everyone know in February when the Regional Council members
37 met jointly during FIS meeting, Resolution 01-2000 was
38 brought up by one of our Council members, Robert Nick, and it
39 was my understanding that the Western and Eastern Interior
40 and also YK-Delta Councils will be considering the resolution
41 that I have a copy of the draft resolution here. It
42 specifically talks about subsistence fishing. I believe, you
43 know, what YK-Delta Regional Council expects of the
44 Department if it comes to the point where subsistence fishing
45 would be closed and the resolution, as I understand it, the
46 draft resolution says that if the Department decides to close
47 subsistence, then the sportfishery should be closed as well,
48 that's what you were talking about during FIS meetings in
49 Anchorage if some of you remember that.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Alex. Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, again, I'd like
6 to state I think it'd be best to get the reports on the
7 status and the actions of the different boards before you
8 move along so we can keep it on track. Also the resolution
9 that Alex has brought up is in your notebook and we were
10 going to bring that up when there was a complete discussion
11 on the -- well, it was looked at to be under the Kuskokwim.

12

13 And finally the sportfishing issue would
14 affect Western Interior also, so I understand the need for
15 watching time but I want to inform you that that issue would
16 also apply in Western Interior and I assume Eastern Interior.
17 But I don't know that until we hear the reports from what has
18 transpired at the Board of Fish.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom, did you have something?

21

22 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess the only
23 thing I wanted to add was that I think in response to
24 Gerald's comment, you know, the mandates of ANILCA are very
25 clear relative to priorities and consumptive uses. And,
26 again, as you all know, the priority is for subsistence,
27 that's very clear, and I think everyone here at the table
28 recognizes that. The in-season manager is bound by that.
29 The Office of Subsistence Management is bound by that issue
30 as well.

31

32 I think relative to the sportfishing issue on
33 the Kuskokwim and I think I'm guessing we're going to be
34 talking about it on the Yukon as well, it's still early in
35 the process. It's my understanding that an actual emergency
36 order, you know, has not been issued yet. Again, we clearly
37 have a subsistence priority mandate among subsistence users
38 -- among consumptive users. The State also has a subsistence
39 priority. So I think we're early in the process, still
40 talking about it and, again, I don't think there's anything
41 really to respond to to get your teeth into at this point.
42 But I think it's definitely appropriate to be discussing it.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. Vince, the
47 next item on our agenda is 2001/2002 fishery monitoring plan;
48 is that correct?

49

MR. MATHEWS: No, it would be the one prior

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1 to that, is the subsistence fishery issues and information
2 needs.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: And who is presenting that?

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: That would be a joint effort by
7 Tom and myself.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince. At
10 this time I'd like to call a 10 minute break. We haven't
11 gone very far on the agenda so make it a 10 minute break.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (On record)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If people would drift back up
18 to your chairs we would like to get going again.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just a
21 housekeeping one before you get back on. You have a notebook
22 in front of you, I mean a file, Western Interior is blue and
23 Eastern Interior is green, that has various material we're
24 going to be referring to. But right off the bat, I want you
25 to refer that the green copy in there Western Interior's
26 requested that copies of Title VIII of ANILCA be available so
27 each of you in your files will have that, Yukon-Kuskokwim,
28 your file color is grey. So the green copy that's in there
29 is Title VIII of ANILCA. I just wanted to let you know. And
30 then in various presentations we're going to be referring to
31 that file. For the public and agencies that are present
32 here, we do have extras of those files but I didn't know how
33 many to make so you'll need to contact myself or someone else
34 if you'd like to share one. There's one for Park Service,
35 one of Bureau of Land Management, several for other agencies.
36 So if you do need those, see myself and I'll get those to
37 you. For the public, there is a public version of that same
38 file on the back table and there should be extra copies of
39 most of the materials that are being handed out. If not,
40 please contact one of the Staff up here at the front desk and
41 leave your name and address and we'll send it to you after
42 the meeting.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to call
47 the meeting back to order, thank you, Vince. Where are we on
48 the agenda now?

49

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're right at

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1 11:02, so at this point we have public testimony. It's been
2 noted on the agenda that this is time for public testimony.
3 If anyone in the public has not filled out a green card for
4 public testimony this would be a good time to fill that out
5 and give it to Laura, if she's still here or Odessa or one of
6 us up here and we'd pass it to the Chair, and I believe you
7 already have a public testimony request before you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, I understand that. And
10 it would be appropriate to recognize people as they turn in
11 the green sheet?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, this would be the time
14 you'd use that and then if others wanted to speak you would
15 recognize them.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I have a
18 request from Paul Joslin, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and
19 before you are seated you will notice that Proposal 11 is on
20 the agenda, I was just wondering if you can wait until then
21 or would you like to testify now?

22
23 MR. JOSLIN: My thinking was, Mr. Chairman,
24 that if I testified now and there's some materials that
25 you've been given that, then later this afternoon when you
26 got to the issue you would have had a chance to take a look
27 at them and think about it from there and could, at that
28 point, maybe then ask me questions if you had any.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Will you turn your mike
31 off when you get done. We'll give you three to four minutes
32 so go ahead and testify because it is on the agenda. Turn
33 your mike on, please.

34
35 MR. JOSLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, ladies
36 and gentlemen. I'm here in support of Proposal 11 which has
37 to do with the Toklat wolves. And the subsistence.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, could you state
40 your name and your affiliation for Tina.

41
42 MR. JOSLIN: Yes, my name is Dr. Paul Joslin
43 and I'm the executive director with the Alaska Wildlife
44 Alliance. Among the materials that you already received
45 earlier is a report from the subsistence Board Staff where
46 they recommended not to adopt protection for the Toklat
47 wolves. And one of their major concerns was that they felt
48 that the request would violate Section 202 of ANILCA.
49 Following this we went to the Trustees of Alaska, which is a

50 public interest law firm with much experience on ANILCA, for

00035

1 them to review the relevant law and they have concluded that
2 the opinions reached on this particular area in the draft
3 Staff analysis is incorrect. The details of the Trustees for
4 Alaska's review is among the materials that have been
5 submitted to you.

6
7 Now, the Toklat wolf family, you know, why
8 bother to protect them? Well, they happen to be the first
9 group of wolves ever studied in the wild. Dr. Adolf Murrey's
10 monograph on the Toklat wolves was based on his observations
11 in the late 1930s and has become a classic and it continues
12 to be reprinted. Murrey's cabin and his journals have also
13 been preserved. His journals are actually here in the
14 University of Alaska-Fairbanks. The greatest tribute that
15 could be given in honor of Dr. Murrey would be to ensure the
16 very wolves that he studied would be legally protected for
17 all time.

18
19 The Toklat wolves have been scientifically
20 monitored ever since Murrey's work. The National Park
21 Service has acknowledged in its brochures, Wolves in Denali,
22 and I quote, there are now 60 years of research and
23 observations on the Toklat that Murrey first observe. Dr.
24 Gordon Heber who overlapped with Murrey has continued for the
25 next 35 years on this one pack. Dr. Lane Adams, the
26 biologist whose work was referred to in the Subsistence Board
27 Staff reports has, himself, also monitored this pack for the
28 past 17 years. Truly, this pack is of great scientific
29 interest.

30
31 However, there's more to do with this
32 particular pack. The Toklat wolves just happen to be the
33 most viewed and most photographed in the world. Over 20,000
34 people see them per year or about 12 percent of visitors who
35 take a bus tour into the Park. I'm a wolf biologist and I've
36 worked on wolves in various parts of the world and trust me,
37 there's no place that begins to come close to the opportunity
38 in seeing these Toklat wolves, not even Yellowstone, which
39 now has more wolves than does Denali, they can't begin to
40 match the viewing that has occurred in Denali which is still
41 twice as much.

42
43 There's an economic value. The Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game has estimated that people are
45 prepared to spend as much as \$300 in-state per day with the
46 expectation of seeing a wolf. And on this basis, if you were
47 to take the 20,000 sightings of this pack, that would
48 translate into a value of about six million a year.

49

While the overall average take among Denali's

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1 wolves is not significant, when considered at the population
2 level, you only about 2.5 wolves per year out of the entire
3 Park, it can be disastrous at the level of the individual
4 pack. Past hunting and trapping contributed to the reduction
5 in the Toklat pack resulting in only two members a few years
6 ago, one male and one female, thank gosh, otherwise we might
7 have lost that pack forever after 60 years. It resulted in
8 the elimination of the nearby headquarters pack in 1995.
9 Last winter half the neighboring Sanctuary pack to the west
10 was snared. This winter five pups belonging to the Pinto
11 pack immediately to the north were shot and killed by a
12 single trapper. Governor Tony Knowles in his directive to
13 the Board of Game last March said, and I quote, "The time to
14 establish significant and appropriate areas of complete
15 protection for wolves is long overdue here in Alaska and the
16 current request for the Toklat pack is an excellent
17 opportunity to begin this effort."

18
19 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game to a
20 hard look at the question of protecting the Toklat wolves on
21 State land, considering that it's mainly a Federal concern,
22 they looked at it on State land. And most of the
23 constituencies based, for Fish and Game, as you know, are
24 hunters and trappers when it comes to the game side of
25 things. Yet, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
26 recommended that protection be given. They took the bold
27 step and stood up to the plate.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me.

30
31 MR. JOSLIN: Uh-huh.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: How long is your presentation,
34 your testimony?

35
36 MR. JOSLIN: There's about two minutes more
37 to go.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

40
41 MR. JOSLIN: It considered that the amount of
42 lost hunting and trapping opportunity on State land to be
43 insignificant, while the benefits gained to the Denali Park
44 visitors are much greater. Our request to protect the Toklat
45 wolves in that part of Denali National Park, where it is
46 still lacking, will result in substantially less lost hunting
47 and trapping opportunities.

48
49 Many thousands of people have written,

50 telephoned, sent email, fax messages of support to the

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1 National Park Service, the Governor of the Board of Game.
2 More recently, well over a thousand messages of support were
3 received by the Federal Subsistence Board. Please, take that
4 into account.

5
6 Don Barry, the Assistant Secretary of
7 Interior said last March, "This wildlife viewing opportunity
8 which provides so much visitor enjoyment fills a fundamental
9 role in the National Park Service."

10
11 And finally last November, the Board of Game,
12 whose constituencies as you know, strongly hunting and
13 trapping, did the right thing and they established an area of
14 protection for hunting and trapping for the Toklat wolves on
15 State land. And now it is your time. Please, create the
16 regulations necessary that will ensure that the Toklat wolves
17 will never be hunted or trapped out of existence on Park
18 land. If it were to happen it would be a terrible blow and
19 a horrible disgrace upon all the work and good will in
20 furthering the concept of subsistence on National Park land.

21
22 There is a precedent, in 1976, the Denali
23 Caribou Herd has.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's an awful long two
26 minutes.

27
28 MR. JOSLIN: It's the very last two
29 sentences, I promise.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

32
33 MR. JOSLIN: Since 1976, the Denali Caribou
34 Herd has been legally protected within the Park's boundaries
35 as well as outside on State lands within the whole of Game
36 Management Unit 20(C). If we can do that for about 2,000
37 caribou when they number about a million in the state,
38 surely, you, we hope, will do as much for the world's most
39 famous family of wolves that currently numbers just 11
40 members.

41
42 Thank you for your time.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your testimony.
45 At this time we have another person wishing to speak before
46 us, we have Cynthia Monroe, Alaskans Listening to Alaskans,
47 three to four minutes, please.

48
49 MS. MONROE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll

50 be very quick because what I have to say is not directly

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1 related to your agenda today, in any particular item, but I
2 think it's related to the whole agenda and to the purpose of
3 the Board.

4
5 My name is Cynthia Monroe and I work for the
6 American Friends Service Committee on a project called
7 Alaskans Listening to Alaskans about Subsistence. What the
8 project is, is a compassionate listening project started by
9 Alaska Quakers to approach the division in the state over the
10 whole question of how subsistence should be protected. We
11 wanted to approach that division, not from a political point
12 of view or even from an advocacy point of view, but rather
13 from the direction of trying to restore some harmony in the
14 state and to find a way that Alaskans from different
15 backgrounds and different places in the state could hear one
16 another about the questions of subsistence and resource use
17 in a way that would make them more likely to be friends with
18 each other and more likely to understand one another, instead
19 of continuing the divide that we've all been seeing over the
20 past several years.

21
22 We've been working for two years now and
23 we've been working with groups in Anchorage and in Fairbanks
24 and the village of Buckland. And in January of this year we
25 were very fortunate, we were able to bring together folks
26 from all of those places in person for the first time. We've
27 been starting out by talking to people in groups of -- folks
28 from fairly similar backgrounds and then working towards
29 bringing people together. And we've been able to take that
30 first step and what we have found from this approach of
31 asking people about their experiences on the land and what
32 they care about the most, is that, their -- even when people
33 get to the points of disagreement in terms of resource use,
34 starting from what they care about and what their life
35 experiences have been, they can understand one another
36 better, we can all understand one another better and the
37 discussions about the places where we disagree happen in a
38 completely different way than they do ordinarily and
39 certainly in most public forums. They happen in terms of
40 people leaning from each other instead of just arguing.

41
42 So that's what we're about. And I wanted to
43 let you know that we're doing that. And I especially wanted
44 to take a couple of minutes to let this body know about the
45 project because so far the only rural place that we visited
46 has been Buckland, an Inupiat village south of Kotzebue. And
47 we would very much like to visit interior villages and other
48 places in the state. We're learning a lot and we think
49 there's a lot more to be learned, it's a big place.

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1 So I will leave my remarks at that. And
2 before I sit down I will pass out some information. There's
3 a short little flier about the project and a newsletter from
4 last summer. I will make sure that the newsletter coming out
5 this March is something everybody here will get. And there's
6 also -- I don't have enough copies for everyone but I have
7 a few copies of a letter that came out of that first joint
8 meeting that we had in January, and the interesting thing
9 about that is that at this gathering people from very
10 different backgrounds and people who have been very vocal on
11 opposite sides of the subsistence debate were able to
12 identify a number of values and concerns about Alaska
13 resources that they share and have in common. And so
14 everyone who was there at this weekend has articulated that
15 the points in this letter are things that they really care
16 about and would like to build on.

17
18 So with that, thank you very much for your
19 time.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Cynthia. Sitting
22 right behind you, Stanley, would you raise your hand --
23 Stanley Ned. Yes, could you speak a few minutes because
24 speaking with you during the break, we would like to invite
25 you up to the Koyukuk River area and you are invited to come
26 back tomorrow and tell us a little bit more, if we have time,
27 during our Western Interior meeting tomorrow. Thank you
28 Cynthia. I don't know if it's appropriate at this time, but
29 I don't see it on the agenda, that 11 -- do we always have
30 that on the agenda, 11:00 and 5:00 for public testimony?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we have. We've had not a
33 need for it because generally we haven't had the public so we
34 do usually have it on most of the agendas at 11:00 and 5:00.
35 And from your last meeting in Nulato you requested that there
36 be an evening session. So this kind of comes close to having
37 that opportunity for those that need to target a certain time
38 to testify.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, and when I addressed that
41 evening session-type thing, I was addressing the villages,
42 targeting the villages and not so much meetings in Fairbanks
43 or Anchorage. I don't know whether it would be appropriate
44 at this time, but I think that it would be appropriate at
45 this time to ask that all public testimony be area specific
46 and item specific and testify only during our deliberations.
47 Would that be -- can we do that in a formal resolution or
48 anything like that?

49

MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know if we need a

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1 resolution. The only thing is, is we have gotten -- I don't
2 know if complaints is the right word, but concerns by people
3 that they don't have the luxury of staying throughout the
4 meeting and bringing up -- or waiting for the topic to come
5 forth because as you know the agenda can accelerate or slow
6 down and so they've requested over time that there be a
7 specific time when they can testify so then they can schedule
8 to be there at 11:00 or whatever time is set up. It's to
9 accommodate public testimony.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Any
12 questions or any comments on this? If not we're going to
13 meeting agenda Item B. Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we talked
16 about that one. I got out of order on the agenda. That's
17 the deal with the subsistence fisheries issues and
18 information needs. Tom and I will be kind of jointly doing
19 this. I need to refer you to your green and blue folders,
20 and grey for YK, you're going to open them up and then beyond
21 the green ANILCA copy is one that's fairly large, it's all
22 clipped together and then right on the top it says, Issues
23 and Information Needs. And I will ask the Chair if he would
24 like to divide that up into a discussion on the Yukon and
25 then a discussion on the Kuskokwim?

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to keep them
28 separate but I'd like to also keep them short, we have --
29 we're coming up on noon and we haven't even gone halfway
30 through the agenda. And we've got to act on these proposals
31 sooner or later before we get out of here by 5:00.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. And we've
34 already talked about the need to make this timely. So with
35 that, I'll go ahead and direct you -- well, I'll let Tom do
36 the introductory comments of how this fits into the whole FIS
37 project and then we need to focus on the particular pages
38 that address each drainage and then I have additional
39 handouts from your meeting in February where you brought up
40 different issues. So maybe Tom could cover how this plays
41 into all the projects, this discussion of issues and
42 information needs.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

45
46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again, I'll keep my
47 comments very brief, but basically the direction that you
48 provide is the foundation for the decision-making process and
49 the review process on the various fisheries information

50 projects. Again, you were -- a month ago you were able to --

00041

1 many of you were able to review these in a meeting in
2 Anchorage and the process that led up to that review was
3 founded based on the directions you had provided earlier, on
4 what kinds of things you'd like to see.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, then I
9 would direct you and it's only because of the way they're
10 paged and not any difference in the preference to regions or
11 whatever, to the Yukon River region section on Pages 6
12 through 8. A year ago, a meeting similar to this you met
13 with Fisheries Information Service staff and you drafted up
14 these issues and information needs which are captured on
15 those pages. Basically we're asking to you review those, see
16 if those are still current and then we need to address the
17 ones that you brought up when you reviewed all the projects
18 last month in February. And Tom may have something to add on
19 that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

22
23 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, just very quickly, I
24 think maybe just to emphasize the importance of this issue,
25 this past year 7.2 million dollars worth of projects were
26 funded. That was the total statewide that you reviewed in
27 Anchorage about a month ago and the Federal Subsistence Board
28 basically adopted your recommendations a week ago Monday. So
29 that was 7.2 million dollars. This next funding year, it's
30 my understanding that for new project starts they'll have
31 approximately two million dollars to work with so it's going
32 to be very important to focus in on the kinds of things you
33 want to see, what are your priorities, because, again, there
34 won't be nearly the amount of money available for new starts.
35 Again, a number of the projects you funded were three year
36 projects so they will continue to proceed but in terms of new
37 starts, the money will be much more limited so it's really
38 important to focus in on what your priorities are.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Tom, you know, we
43 prioritized all the projects that we wanted within the three
44 Regional Councils. Are we going to have this opportunity to
45 do this again?

46
47 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, that's my
48 understanding. It's my understanding that the proposals for
49 the 2002 cycle are in now, they have just over a hundred

50 proposals statewide. There will be a review of those by

00042

1 Staff and I believe at your fall meeting later this year you
2 will be viewing the recommendations there and making
3 decisions at that point.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So there's no real need at
8 this time to take action other than to -- go ahead Vince.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes and no, Mr. Chairman.
11 Basically the way the process works and I think Tom already
12 covered that, is that, when projects come in they try to
13 match projects or solicit projects that address your issues
14 and information needs. So you're the ones that kind of help
15 people submit projects to address the need, for example, when
16 you discussed in February, you asked that projects needed to
17 educate and employ our youth and get them more involved with
18 resource management whenever possible. That would possibly
19 be used as a way of looking at multiple projects that come in
20 as to which ones would be better addressing your issue that
21 there should be local youth employed and involved in
22 education. As an example. And I understand we have a jam-
23 packed agenda and it makes it difficult to go through all
24 these issues at this point, but it might be worth your while
25 to look them over and then address the ones from February.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

28
29 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 It seems like to me we're putting the cart before the horse,
31 we already got done with 2001 proposals and we're getting
32 into 2002 proposals and we got a full agenda here and I think
33 we should just move on because we already know what we're
34 kind of doing. We already know what's affecting the Yukon
35 and Kuskokwim Rivers and we'll hit on that later on.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: It's never been my position to
40 debate so if that's the wishes, I believe all your issues and
41 information needs are pretty much covered in what you did a
42 year ago. I'm just not sure how you wanted to deal with the
43 ones you discussed in February of -- like compensation for
44 elders, fish caught during test fisheries should be donated
45 to subsistence users, et cetera, et cetera. If you wanted to
46 add those into the crit -- I'm using the word, criteria, if
47 somebody's here from FIS, please correct me if that's the
48 wrong term, but criteria that would be used to evaluate
49 projects that are submitted.

00043

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: One priority that I would like
4 to see is a user conflict program set up for that GASH area
5 because there's -- we were going to do a pike study, that
6 didn't have enough funding for that area, but I would like to
7 see a user conflict forum prioritized for that area. Because
8 that area is getting -- local people are having problems with
9 sportsfishermen and so if we're going to prioritize things,
10 I would like to prioritize that higher on the list to
11 alleviate problems there.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, could I respond
14 to that?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: I'm glad Jack brought that up,
19 that is on the agenda throughout and there is funding being
20 focused on that and we do have Staff here from Fish and Game
21 that's going to talk about their -- somewhat their
22 preliminary preplanning on that. So that issue is already
23 risen to a level of funding, the conflict resolution. So I
24 think it needs to be noted that it's within your issues but
25 it's already being addressed by various means that we're
26 going to need your input on. Tom may have more to add on
27 that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Vince. We
30 did this and we expected full approval from the Federal
31 Subsistence Board. So -- Tom.

32

33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Jack, again, within
34 the packet, this packet, the fisheries information, towards
35 the back there's a document, 2001 draft fishery plan and if
36 you look back in there under the Yukon you will note, again
37 at the bottom of Table 9 and 10, there's an item, working
38 group on subsistence, recreational use conflicts in
39 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross area, and you'll see
40 that both at the bottom of Page 9 and the bottom of Page 10,
41 so there's funding for exactly the process that you mentioned
42 here and was discussed a month ago. There's funding provided
43 for the next three years. And again, that process will need
44 to be implemented and I think Vince is asking for your
45 thoughts and direction on that. But, again, it's funded, it
46 just needs to be developed, thought out and implemented.

47

48 Thank you.

49

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

00044

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: At our meeting a month ago it
4 was unclear to me whether that funding was available and
5 that's why I was trying to prioritize this forward. So I'm
6 glad to see that is prioritized and is funded.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, in regards
15 to this yellow sheet that kind of summarized our actions in
16 February there, I thought that -- or I would make a
17 suggestion that this just be forwarded. Some of these things
18 can be -- I don't see the need for further action and then
19 report back. Like if the project managers hear our concerns,
20 like for the round fish wheel and some of the others, why do
21 -- we don't have to enforce that, but they can respond to
22 that suggestion and we could have some kind of feedback at
23 our next meeting about whether or not some of these things
24 are implemented. I don't see acting on each one. They're
25 just kind of directions or concerns that we had about those
26 and I think it gets out there -- I'd like to -- because some
27 of them are things that can be, you know, request for members
28 on there, if there's reason for not doing it we could hear
29 that back, too, over the next -- but I would suggest we not
30 spend a lot of time trying to take further action on each of
31 these.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, that was well
34 put and should be well taken. Gerald.

35

36 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I was wondering if Craig
37 was right, hitting on the right note is that we're spending
38 too much time and we could have done this in a workshop or
39 something or a discussion, too much time on fisheries, not
40 enough time on wildlife.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need any further -- go
43 ahead, Tom.

44

45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I understand very
46 clearly and it sounds like I need to sprint through the rest
47 of these items on the agenda, quickly, because you're losing
48 patience and I've got a brief summary here and again the
49 materials are within this packet. There's a summary of what

50 the Federal Subsistence Board actions were. And I guess.

00045

1 very quickly, for the 2001 fishery monitoring projects that
2 you reviewed a month ago and, again, many of you came into
3 Anchorage and we all wanted to thank you very much for your
4 time and effort there -- in summary, the Federal Subsistence
5 Board, a week ago Monday, funded the projects that were
6 recommended by the joint Regional Councils. Very simple.
7 They funded the projects that you recommended to them. There
8 are a total of 21 projects funded for the Yukon and 19
9 projects funded for the Kuskokwim and, again, they'll be in
10 the process of implementing those over the next month is my
11 understanding.

12
13 The program focuses on stock status and
14 trends, harvest monitoring and traditional ecological
15 knowledge and facilitates cooperation between Federal, State,
16 regional and local groups. And, again, this is a cooperative
17 effort to provide much needed subsistence fishery
18 information. As was mentioned, very briefly, earlier, for
19 the 2002 cycle, these are proposals that have just come in,
20 the deadline has passed but again you'll be looking at these
21 in the fall. We have received 120 new proposals statewide
22 and again, you'll be looking at them in the fall and we'll be
23 able to take action at that point.

24
25 I have no further comments on the fisheries
26 information projects at this time. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. As you
29 stated, we'll be looking at it this fall. Where are we on
30 the agenda, Vince?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we would now be
33 right into the 2000 fishing season on number C is my
34 understanding and that would be where we would be discussing
35 the summary of Board actions, for example, and preseason
36 plans.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who is covering this issue?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, this is where we envision
41 quite a few people coming to the table and maybe it would be
42 wise to do a look at where we are with time on here, because
43 this is one of the main topics of the whole meeting. It
44 might be wise to take an early lunch and come back because
45 this is going to require quite a bit of dialogue between
46 various people.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

49

MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, my question to you, to

00046

1 whoever's going to present this, is that, is this preseason
2 planning going to be -- will be affected by the Board of Fish
3 actions last January, and my question is, are our actions
4 going to reflect what the Board did in January?

5
6 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, Gerald. I think
7 that it will. We need to go through what the Board actions
8 were and I'm in a position to present that. And then at that
9 point we'll go through some various options for your
10 consideration. These particular options were presented to
11 YRDFA by the State and I haven't commented on them until this
12 point.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, maybe somebody ought to
15 replace that mike there. What was the reasoning that you
16 wanted an early lunch?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think once you get into
19 this, it may take a couple of hours of concentrated time,
20 that's all I was getting at, is that, to take it in
21 piecemeal, can work, but it might be a bit more challenging.
22 It's up to you, Mr. Chair, to just keeping working straight
23 through. I'd have to take a break to find the break in the
24 wire that's causing that mike not to work.

25
26 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair.....

27
28 MR. NICHOLIA: See if we spend time on this
29 and we got to spend so much time on this they should have
30 gave us more time to deliberate this stuff.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't see any time
33 whatsoever, I think on the 11, wolf, 23, 26 or 33, I think
34 those will go through right away.

35
36 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Where are we on the
39 agenda, now?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're going right
42 into the 2001 subsistence fishing season discussion is where
43 we're at. I mean Staff is prepared to give you summaries of
44 the Federal Subsistence Board actions, State and Federal
45 Staff are available to give you summaries of Board of Fish
46 actions and I believe Fish and Game is ready to give you
47 projected salmon runs. I may have used the wrong term, but
48 I apologize for that, projected salmon run returns and et
49 cetera, and then it just keeps building from there.

00047

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, between Gerald and I,
2 we'd like to get started on this and see where we stand and
3 then we'll call for a break at the appropriate time.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If it's okay with both
6 Councils, I'm just going to go right ahead with the items
7 because the first item that I'm supposed to address will be
8 quite quick. That's to deal with your summary of Federal
9 Subsistence Board actions. Now, these are actions on
10 regulatory proposals that you took up in the past meeting.
11 I'll direct you by -- basically these are the letters that
12 the Board responds to you. When the book was put together
13 they were put together in various books. These are the
14 805(c) letters that we talk about every year. I got to find
15 them real quick here, I apologize for that.

16
17 For Western Interior they're under Tab E in
18 your green book. Basically what I can do is real quickly
19 summarize it. You jointly took up one, two, three, four,
20 five, six, seven proposals and I'll just talk about the joint
21 ones that you took up very quickly.

22
23 One dealt with adding St. Michael to the C&T
24 determination, they deferred that proposal at the request of
25 the proponent. You had a proposal that if you fished in one
26 fishing district and commercial fishermen in one fishing
27 district you could not fish in another district, your home
28 village. You supported that change. The Board unanimously
29 adopted that proposal. There was several in from the Yukon
30 River Fishery Drainage Association. One was to delete the
31 requirement of non-salmon harvest permit on the Tanana River,
32 required to obtain subsistence salmon fishing within the
33 Upper Tanana above the mouth of the Wood River. Basically
34 they adopted your recommendations of both Eastern and
35 Western. They did the same with the proposal submitted by
36 Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments addressing with
37 permit requirements for whitefish and sucker in Birch Creek.
38 The one that may need some discussion, if at all, would be
39 Proposal 11 last year which was dealing with the targeting of
40 chinook or king salmon, specifically, for dog food. And I'm
41 not sure if all the Staff are here if there are questions,
42 but basically your recommendation, that was modified for
43 Eastern Interior was adopted by the Board. Which the Eastern
44 Interior's action was that chinook are primarily used for
45 human consumption and are not to be specifically targeted for
46 dog food except for when fish unfit for human consumptions,
47 scraps and jack kings, six inches or less may be fed to dogs.
48 That discussion may need to come up later on when we talk
49 about -- or even now, about that -- if my understanding is

50 correct, that our regulation is now more restrictive than the

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1 State regulation on this issue.

2

3 And in a nutshell, and I apologize for
4 rushing through that but Western Interior has it under Tab E
5 and Eastern Interior, I don't have a copy of the book here
6 but I believe it's in the same area. This is a requirement
7 of ANILCA that the Board respond to you in writing on any of
8 your actions, any of your recommendations that the Board does
9 not adopt and explain why they did not adopt them. We've
10 expanded that, that the Board responds back on all of your
11 recommendations, if they adopted them or not.

12

13 So that's a real quick summary of the actions
14 of the Federal Subsistence Board.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. That's always been in
17 place and we always understand this and that's where this
18 quick information, and the Staff -- Staff drafting or
19 remedying these proposals will go into effect, all we'll do
20 is align with the most beneficial action taken. So are you
21 done with this and where are you now?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we're done with that.
24 I'm looking for Staff to see if there is need to be a
25 proposal drafted to deal with this king salmon so I'll try to
26 find that person here who drafted up the analysis the last
27 time to see if there is a need, because you're requesting
28 that if there is a more liberal state, that there be a
29 parallel proposal be submitted to the Federal side to capture
30 that. So I'll try to address that when I find that person.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, it doesn't have to be a
33 new proposal, it just has to be like more housecleaning, it's
34 just a line item thing that we go through before the Federal
35 Subsistence Board.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, to correct you, it
38 has to be a proposal so -- but we don't need to spend a lot
39 of time, I'll consult with George when we meet and he can
40 report back later today or can do it in the next two days.
41 Because it can be a proposal that Eastern will see next round
42 if there is a need for a proposal.

43

44 So that is a very brief summary of what the
45 Federal Subsistence Board did. It was the first round that
46 they took up proposals dealing with fisheries. And I believe
47 you received copies of this in the mail. For Yukon
48 Kuskokwim, you'll be going through this at your meeting also
49 and I did not know if you took up the same proposals, so at

50 your meeting, we'll address the summary that affected your

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1 area. So that brings us up, if there's no questions, on what
2 the Federal Subsistence Board did, a summary of what the
3 Alaska Board of Fisheries did in January, both on the
4 Kuskokwim and the Yukon.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald, question.

7
8 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Vince, my question is
9 what can we do after the fact? You know, it's already been
10 done, what can we do now?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Gerald, if the
13 Board took an action that you didn't agree with based on your
14 recommendation or just based on the action they took, you
15 have the option to request for reconsideration. I don't have
16 my flow chart here, but essentially when the Federal -- when
17 the final regulations are published in the Federal Register,
18 I can find that date, the clock starts sticking -- ticking,
19 not sticking, ticking of when you can submit a request for
20 reconsideration. The request for reconsideration informs the
21 Board that you have a concern about their action and have
22 additional data or whatever to address that. So that is a
23 remedy there after the fact if something happened that you
24 didn't like. You also have the option of the regulatory
25 process, to bring up another proposal addressing your
26 concern. So those are the options you have if there's an
27 action that the Board took and the public has the same option
28 to do that also, so that would be a request for
29 reconsideration. If it's an emergency situation, and it
30 clearly needs to be an emergency situation then you can
31 request a special action of the Board and then the Board
32 would take it up in a timely manner to address the special
33 action.

34
35 And if I left something out there's other
36 Staff here that can fill in the gaps if I left something out
37 on that.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. We're doing
42 that anyways. We've been doing that ever since we've been in
43 operation. So where are we on the agenda?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that completes
46 the summary of the Federal Subsistence Board, now, we would
47 go over a summary of what the Board of Fish did in light of
48 the salmon conditions and where they planning are going. We
49 have preseason plans on there also. I suppose, as your

50 coordinator, your best advice now would be to pull the people

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1 up that understand intimately what the actions of the Board
2 of Fish, what the projected actions of the Alaska Department
3 of Fish and Game and what the in-season managers for the
4 Federal side feel with the season instead of trying to keep
5 to this agenda which is become obsolete as we move through
6 it. That's my suggestion, I'm not directing the Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're right into preseason
9 plans?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'm looking at Staff that
12 they're all comfortable for that. Mr. Chairman, I think the
13 best thing now is just to open this up and let's just talk
14 about salmon in all three regions and pick it up on the
15 agenda as need be. I think that would be the easiest at this
16 point.

17

18 The various Staff that are now filling the
19 tables have talked about how they want to present this and,
20 et cetera, so I think it would be wise to lean on their
21 expertise to help you through this topic area.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Monty would start and I have to
26 work on his mike so I'll just move around and find the loose
27 wire.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Monty.

30

31 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, maybe it might be
32 best to have the State, Fred or Bonnie to run through the
33 regulatory changes that occurred at the recent Board of Fish.
34 I think you may be familiar with them, but maybe a bit more
35 detail would be necessary. Also the chinook and summer chum
36 salmon outlook and fall chum and coho salmon outlook also.
37 I think there's going to be a considerable overlap between
38 their discussion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. We're getting quite a
41 bit of feedback up here, just reverberating up here, is there
42 any way we can fix that?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'll work with that with
45 Salena and we'll try to correct that as quickly as we can.

46

47 MR. MILLARD: I'll get off this particular
48 mike and let them speak.

49

MR. FLEENER: Maybe if you pull the mike

00051

1 closer.

2

3 MR. MILLARD: One, two, three, anything
4 better there?

5

6 REPORTER: Yes, you're fine.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: I'll work with -- okay, we'll
9 get it if it doesn't work we'll correct it.

10

11 MR. MILLARD: Okay, it's on four now, it was
12 on 10, so I can understand that.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. MILLARD: You all better now?

17

18 MR. FLEENER: We're all better.

19

20 MR. MILLARD: Okay. All right. Anyway, we
21 got three reports that might take us until noon. There's
22 going to be some overlap, possibly after they finish this so
23 we can get into the subsistence thoughts that were presented
24 at the YRDFA board after lunch and I think, as, you know, at
25 least the Federal representatives, we can give you our
26 perspective and thoughts on the subsistence outlook for
27 Federal lands. Does that sound reasonable?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: (Nods affirmatively)

30

31 MR. MILLARD: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fred.

34

35 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, can you hear me all
36 right?

37

38 REPORTER: Yes.

39

40 MR. BUE: My name is Fred Bue, I'm the new
41 Yukon fall area manager for fall chum and coho. And I guess
42 we weren't really prepared for an actual presentation. We're
43 pretty much coming over here to answer questions and such,
44 but I'd like to point out there was a handout, I guess it has
45 a State logo on the front, a small one, at the top, many of
46 these -- these are just real brief summaries of what the
47 Board did. In fact, there's not actual regulatory language,
48 finalized, put in the regulations so we couldn't actually
49 write that down for you here. Also I'd like to, in Tab B, I

50 believe, Monty and Tom Kron inserted the subsistence portion

00052

1 of the regulations that are in your booklet under Tab B.

2

3 Just going through real briefly, I don't know
4 if I should duplicate those but I was kind of more thinking
5 along the lines, peripherally, the other users that may be
6 impacted and go through those. So Tab B that the Board
7 adopted. Below that, they adopted the Yukon River King
8 Salmon Management Plan. Essentially that's consolidated, all
9 the current regulations and put them into a plan that's in
10 one place. It's easier to find and easier to follow through
11 to get the intent with the regulation as a package.

12

13 The next page under the Yukon River summer
14 chum management plan, Tab B, spoke about subsistence fishing
15 but the Board, as a package went on to identify allocations
16 of personal use, sport and commercial fisheries and that's on
17 Page 2 of this handout that you have in front of you with
18 certain trigger points. Say -- or projection run size
19 levels, the State would take some sort of management action
20 based on prioritize that the Board identified was
21 appropriate. Further, all salmon caught during commercial
22 fishing periods with the intent for sale of the roe, are
23 going to be reported on fish tickets as numbers of fish. The
24 Coho Salmon Management Plan was readopted and removed the
25 sunset clause and that includes fishing periods and other
26 users. The Board changed the Yukon River fall chum salmon
27 commercial guideline harvest range for subdistricts 4(B) and
28 4(C) to include subdistrict 4(A), they essentially made it
29 one area.

30

31 In further, other -- on Page 3, the last
32 three points there were not in your packet but the Board
33 adopted regulations specifying the Tanana River drainage
34 chinook salmon sportfisheries to be managed for escapement
35 goals. Establish escapement goals. The Board redefined
36 closed waters at the Black River and Andreafsky River.
37 Redefined the boundary between subdistricts 5(A) and 5(B).
38 And finally the Tanana non-subsistence use area, the Board
39 allowed fike nets that were previously permitted under a
40 subsistence regulation when they went to a non-subsistence
41 user area designation. It was omitted and so the Board took
42 action and allowed it under personal use for whitefish and
43 suckers.

44

45 And that's essentially it for the additions
46 to what's in your Tab under the Board actions.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for our information up
49 front, what's a fike net?

00053

1 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, that's a hoop
2 trap, basket, that's frequently -- it's up there, I guess.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Without the whole in the back.

7
8 MR. NICHOLIA: Just for a clarification,
9 that's a fish trap.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Under the chinook changes in
14 the Chena and the Tanana River drainage, is the Board still
15 allowing catch and release of chinook during the time of low
16 escapements?

17
18 MS. BORBA: Mr. Chairman, initially when we
19 do restrictions they may go to the catch and release and
20 depending on how poor the run is when we get down to actual
21 closures on -- if that happened that they would probably take
22 some measures whether or not to continue the catch and
23 release. It's going to depend on how the season is going and
24 how bad it really is, if they decide to close that. It would
25 be an in-season decision that they would make.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: It's my position that if
30 subsistence fishers have taken cuts on fishing time along the
31 Yukon drainage to get chinook on the spawning grounds that
32 the Department should not allow catch and release fishing for
33 sport because there is mortality and deterrent of movement of
34 those fish, so it would be my position that the Department
35 should be very cautious about utilizing a catch and release
36 sportfishery on a stressed population.

37
38 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to just
39 make a quick comment. This is John Burr with Alaska Fish and
40 Game Sportfish Division.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

43
44 MR. BURR: The Salcha and Chena are kind of
45 unique situations, in that, it's one of the few places of the
46 upper portion.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you bring the mike a
49 little closer?

00054

1 MR. BURR: I think I can, sure. The Chena
2 and Salcha are unique, in that, unlike most places in the
3 Upper Tanana drainage there's -- we have a good measure of
4 the number of fish that get into that drainage. And in
5 general, we would not allow for fishing mortality, whether it
6 was catch and release fishing or harvest if the number of
7 fish that were getting to the Chena or Salcha River were not
8 in excess of what we need for escapement. The Board of Fish
9 did adopt new levels of -- or escapement goals for the Salcha
10 and Chena River during the last cycle. But in general, the
11 notion is certainly we are going to do what we can to provide
12 for the conservation of the stocks, certainly we have a
13 subsistence priority in the State regulations, the same as
14 there is for the Federal regulation as far as the intent and
15 our sportfishing regulations would be targeting, making sure
16 that we had good escapement through those counting projects
17 on the Salcha and Chena River.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I'll restate it a different
22 way. If subsistence fishers have taken cuts to allow chinook
23 to reach the spawning areas, if mistakes have been made by
24 the Department and there are excess amounts of chinook, I
25 still don't feel that there should be catch and release.
26 Because those nutrient levels of the systems have been
27 depleted and stressing these fish and not allowing them to
28 reach their spawning grounds, after subsistence fishers have
29 taken cuts, shouldn't happen, you know. So it's my position
30 that if the Department restrains the subsistence fishers
31 along the drainage then the -- under the sustained fisheries
32 management plan, all users were supposed to -- under that
33 plan, all users were supposed to take the cuts. If adequate
34 amounts or barely amounts of escapement reach the area, then
35 a full-blown catch and release should not be open. I don't
36 feel that that should be fair. I feel that those fish should
37 -- additional fish should be allowed to escape to bring the
38 nutrient levels back up into the system.

39
40 That's the thing that I disliked about what
41 the Board actions were, is that, they lowered escapement
42 goals on drainages -- on some drainages in Alaska, and that's
43 absolutely backwards to rebuilding the salmon stocks,
44 reducing nutrient return into the system is not the way to
45 rebuild these salmon stocks. So I'm stating here that the
46 Sportfish Division should think twice about catch and release
47 fishing on rebuilding these salmon stocks. If they're barely
48 making escapement goals, I still don't think that a catch and
49 release fishery should be open.

00055

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Ray.

2
3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, my question was in that
4 same area, John, did they lower escapement goals for those
5 drainages or were they raised?

6
7 MR. BURR: Actually the commercial fisheries
8 staff could speak to this better than I can but it's not my
9 understanding that they lowered any goals in the Tanana
10 drainage. They just changed -- I believe there was a range
11 before for the Chena and Salcha and they started using the
12 information from the towers for understanding how many fish
13 need to go through the counting projects. But Bonnie or Fred
14 could certainly clear that up.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

17
18 MR. FLEENER: I think I'll wait until one of
19 those two answers this question and then I'll ask mine.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Bonnie.

22
23 MS. BORBA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm not up
24 right now on what the Chena and Salcha, all of the goals that
25 they were discussing at the Board, they're still in draft and
26 they're being further reviewed based on the comments from the
27 review committees on them. So there's nothing out on them at
28 the moment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

31
32 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have
33 a question for John. So are you saying that on the Salcha
34 and the Chena, they're meeting their escapement goals and
35 that's the only time you'll allow this catch and release
36 fishing to take place?

37
38 MR. BURR: Yes, Craig, it's my understanding
39 that and, again, I'm not directly involved in the Chena or
40 Salcha fishery, but in every case we would close fishing if
41 we were not reaching the escapement goals that were
42 associated with that particular run. Like I said, the Chena
43 and Salcha are unique, in that, most cases we don't have that
44 kind of information but certainly in the places where we do
45 we'll do everything possible to make sure that those
46 escapement goals are met. And if that means we just don't
47 have any catch and release fishing, well, that's how it will
48 be
49

MR. FLEENER: Then the follow-up question to

00056

1 that, we heard some testimony from the gentleman from the YK-
2 Delta that they are going to have four days of subsistence
3 openings and three days of subsistence closures but they're
4 still going to have a sportfishing season go on, so your
5 ideal sounds right that you wouldn't have this sportfish
6 season or opportunity when escapement or subsistence is not
7 being met but on the other hand we have on the Kuskokwim just
8 the opposite of that ideal. And I don't know if you can
9 speak to it or not, but it sounds like what you're saying
10 sounds good but they're not implementing that on the
11 Kuskokwim and I'm sure there must be other places that
12 they're not implementing it and we just haven't looked at it
13 yet.

14
15 But I follow along really well with what Jack
16 is saying, I don't think the subsistence fishermen or hunters
17 should have to take the hit when we need to try to preserve
18 the stocks or if the subsistence fishermen is taking the hit,
19 if he or she is being cutoff, then other hunters and
20 fishermen should be cutoff first.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Well, the question I have to
25 Federal or State Staff is what are the escapement goals for
26 the Yukon River drainages and what are those levels, have
27 they been reduced, that's what I want to know? Have those
28 levels -- they did that in other areas of Alaska and I really
29 didn't like that. They did that in other areas of Alaska to
30 accommodate harvest, they reduced escapement levels. So I
31 want to know in the Yukon River drainages, were levels
32 reduced, maintained or upped? And, you know, I'm reiterating
33 again, if subsistence fishers have taken cuts to attain these
34 escapement goals, why should the sportfishers benefit and
35 utilize this catch and release when there is mortality. And
36 I watch it every Saturday evening on TV, people beating the
37 tar out of fish, landing them on the beach and beating them
38 all up. This makes me sick. These fish die. So these are
39 my comments about this catch and release on these marginal
40 returns.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: John.

43
44 MR. BURR: Yes, I'd first like to address the
45 points that Craig brought up and then I'll try to talk about
46 what Jack talked about. First off, there was not complete
47 information earlier this morning about the Kuskokwim and what
48 happened with the Board of Fish, and I'm happy to have other
49 staff fill in the gaps where I may miss a point or two.

00057

1 But the subsistence season that was
2 established for the Kuskokwim River, where you have four days
3 of fishing and three days of no net fishing was established
4 primarily to ensure the quality of the run and also to
5 fulfill the twin goal of making sure that the people in the
6 subsistence river drainage had the opportunity to reach that
7 amount that was necessary for subsistence. And so for those
8 three days a week, that closure to the net and wheel fishing
9 was designed to let this plug of fish go upriver so as to
10 make sure that you have good quality of escapement, both the
11 size of the fish, the age composition and what not. During
12 those three days when the nets and the wheels are not to fish
13 there is an allowance in both State and Federal regulation
14 for rod and reel subsistence fishing in that portion of the
15 Kuskokwim River downstream from the Holitna and including the
16 Holitna River. Upstream of the Holitna River it's primarily
17 State land and there's no provision in that portion of the
18 State for a rod and reel subsistence fishery. The people in
19 Nickoli and McGrath and Talida have traditionally used rod
20 and reel fishing gear to collect their king salmon. The
21 Sportfish Division intends, because of the problems with the
22 runs in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, to reduce the allowable
23 harvest from three fish to one fish per day on the
24 sportfishing -- in the sportfishing regulation. That is
25 partially to provide the opportunity for the upriver people
26 to continue to collect king salmon by rod and reel.

27
28 So first off, it's not correct that
29 subsistence fishing is closed for those three days, it's
30 closed to certain gear types to provide for the quality of
31 the run. And secondly, it's important to maintain that
32 opportunity to harvest fish in the upper portion of the
33 drainage with rod and reel for those local people that want
34 to collect their salmon by that gear type or to collect a
35 king salmon as a fresh fish.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

38
39 MR. NICHOLIA: John, it seems like to me,
40 you're putting sport over subsistence. When you close
41 subsistence you're allowing sport and that's not what I heard
42 directly from the Board of Fish. And what you're doing is
43 you're letting one user group use the resource when you're
44 cutting off another user group, and that's not what I heard
45 from the direction of the Board of Fish. Because you're
46 allowing -- you're closing subsistence and you're allowing
47 sportfishing. And what Jack says, the sportfishing just kind
48 of mauls the fish. I don't see your rationale in this.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: Polly.

00058

1 MS. WHEELER: Just to clarify and maybe Ray
2 could speak to this, too. But last summer we did have a
3 sportfishing closure on the Kuskokwim, and what happened is
4 that the people in Nickoli, Talida and McGrath were then
5 fishing illegally because those guys don't have any other
6 options. They fish for their salmon with rod and reel. And
7 because they're outside of that AVCP region where rod and
8 reel is a legal gear type for subsistence, technically
9 they're fishing illegally. So this is, it's sort of allowing
10 those guys up there -- or those people up there to fish
11 legally by keeping that open. And also recognize, too, that
12 rod and reel within the AVCP region is a legal gear type and
13 that's certainly open -- that will be open. So it sounds
14 sort of convoluted but it's a regulation problem and it's
15 really to provide some opportunity for those guys upriver so
16 that they're not technically fishing for subsistence illegal
17 because they use a sport gear type, if that makes any sense.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: Yes, that's correct.
22 Especially for the people in Nickoli. They had traditional
23 fisheries that put in weir and traps up there which was
24 stopped back in the '60s on some of those king salmon
25 streams. And since that time, the only way they've been able
26 to catch kings in those streams, because it's clear water, is
27 by rod and reel and so they've been doing that. They've
28 adjusted and used that to take -- but there was never a
29 season put in for subsistence use of rod and reel up there on
30 the State land so they do need that opportunity up there.

31
32 If I might comment on the down river, even
33 though there's this four and three closure down there, my
34 understanding is that the people down near the mouth of the
35 Kuskokwim have not had any problem in meeting their
36 subsistence needs. So even though there's a three day
37 closure, it's expected that they'll get all the subsistence
38 fish they need down there but it's allowing slugs of fish
39 further up the river for the other subsistence users. So I
40 don't think they're being -- their subsistence catch is being
41 reduced by those closures. It's kind of an allowing for flow
42 of fish and maybe they could comment, Fritz or Mike, could
43 comment on that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fritz.

46
47 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, if I can
48 Ray, we fill up the smokehouses while the run is still
49 strong. Then where did the schools go, like I mentioned

50 earlier, where do they go after they pass through Akiachuck,

00059

1 because they don't show up at the spawning grounds? Are they
2 dying off?

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike Savage.

5

6 MR. SAVAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in
7 between probably McGrath and Bethel there, pretty much in
8 between, when we subsistence down there, we try to hit the
9 first run, we're trying to beat the flies on our food for the
10 winter. We catch enough fish to last us through the next
11 season and it's very hard -- it's going to be very hard -- I
12 know my dad's going to be very, very mad, he's an 80 year old
13 man, he's going to be real mad because he's got this three
14 day thing -- four day thing of fishing and then three day
15 resting. He's so used to getting his food in -- subsistence
16 food in, put it away before the flies hit. Same thing with
17 moose season, you know, whatever season it is. And that's
18 going to be a problem for a lot of elders in the lower part.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike and Fritz. Is
21 anyone addressing State Board of Fisheries on this issue, rod
22 and reel versus subsistence? Is anyone -- okay, Polly.

23

24 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. AVCP
25 took the lead with the Board of Fish to ask for rod and reel
26 subsistence, as a legal subsistence gear type. At the Board
27 meeting in January Roy Aschenfelter of Nome put in a proposal
28 for Norton Sound to include Norton Sound in that as having
29 rod and reel as a legal subsistence gear type and the Board
30 passed that. So anybody is open to putting in a proposal
31 before the Board of Fish and the Board of Fish has heard
32 these proposals and allowed for these within certain
33 parameters, certainly, but allowed rod and reel to be a
34 subsistence gear type but it's been on a proposal by proposal
35 basis rather than having it be sort of a blank slate across
36 the board. So if you're interested, I would certainly
37 encourage you to put a proposal in before the Board.

38

39 Just to speak a little bit to what Mike
40 Savage just said a few minutes ago. This was not a decision
41 that was taken lightly by the Board. For those of you that
42 were at the Board, you know we spent a full day in committee
43 for the Kuskokwim River for all the regulations. There's
44 real concerns on the Kuskokwim for the fishery, period. And
45 that's why these dramatic regulations, the subsistence
46 fishing schedule was put into place. I will say, I mean I
47 spent 23 straight days in Anchorage during the month of
48 January and there were a lot of tough decisions that were
49 made but I will say that there was, in the committee, because

50 I sat in on the Kuskokwim committee, there was recognition

00060

1 that that fishery is in trouble and that these were dramatic
2 steps that needed to be taken and that there were community
3 represented on committee and they were supportive of this
4 because they recognized that the king salmon fishery on the
5 Kuskokwim needs some help. But there was support. The
6 committee worked -- there was a lot of support within
7 committee for putting in this fishing subsistence schedule.
8 Since that Board meeting there has been some word from the
9 Federal manager -- the person that's the manager on the
10 Kuskokwim asking for more restrictive fishing schedules. So
11 just to keep you apprised and maybe Jerry could speak to
12 that, too, but there was a letter that was put forward by the
13 Kuskokwim manager to the Board of Fish saying that this
14 wasn't enough of a restriction, that there needed to be a
15 more restrictive fishing schedule. So it's important that
16 you keep all these little pieces that are inter-related in
17 the picture.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. Mike.

20
21 MR. SAVAGE: Yeah, thank you. I got one
22 question, is the rod and reel just going to be for
23 subsistence users only or sportfishermen, too, up in like the
24 McGrath area, up, you know, where the heads are?

25
26 MS. WHEELER: Unfortunately -- well, I guess
27 depending -- there hasn't been -- the Board hasn't had a
28 proposal before it to include that area as a legal gear type
29 for rod and reel but it's something that probably should be
30 considered by the Board in short order, again, to accommodate
31 those fishers because they don't have any other options.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. At this
34 time I would like to address all members of KRAC to pursue
35 this issue within your region and bring it up before us. Can
36 we, as a subsistence Council, introduce proposals before the
37 Board of Fisheries, State Board of Fisheries?

38
39 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, anybody can put in
40 a proposal before the Board of Fish.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: So at this time we would like
43 to address -- or request the Staff to draft some resolutions
44 addressing this issue of sportfisheries versus -- addressing
45 sportfisheries and subsistence use of rod and reel.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

00061

1 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to direct the
2 Staff to promulgate a proposal to allow subsistence rod and
3 reel fishing for salmon in the upper Kuskokwim area and to be
4 submitted to the State Board of Fisheries.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion? Tom
9 and then Polly.

10
11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, real quickly, it's
12 my understanding the Board of Fish is normally on a three
13 year schedule and they have not asked for proposals for the
14 AYK region and for this coming cycle. Maybe Polly can
15 address it as well, so if you submit a proposal it's going to
16 be three years before it's going to be heard since they just
17 had a meeting. There are other ways, agenda change requests,
18 petitions, for example, to ask -- request possible
19 consideration to hear it earlier. But I think Polly would be
20 the best one to address this, thanks.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.

23
24 MS. WHEELER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
25 Kron spoke to what I was going to speak to. The Board of
26 Fish operates on a three year cycle and the Board of Game
27 operates on a two year cycle, but they deal with ACRs all the
28 time, agenda change requests, and I think this would -- you
29 know, it's worthwhile putting in an ACR so they do deal with
30 this out of cycle.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, if you remember we did
33 this for KRAC, we just submitted it after the date and yet
34 the Board of Fisheries brought it up and we still haven't
35 gotten this action heard by the Federal Subsistence Board.
36 Jack.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: I amend my motion for proposal
39 under special consideration to the Fishery Board, ACR,
40 agenda.....

41
42 MS. WHEELER: Agenda change request.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Agenda change request, so that
45 it will come before their agenda at a most expeditious point.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll second that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion on the

50 floor, this is dealing with Western Interior, how do we

00062

1 handle it?

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: You guys can vote on it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I'll call for the
6 question on the Western Interior, all those in favor of the
7 motion signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Just point of clarification, is
18 that still limited to the upper part of the Kuskokwim River
19 because discussion also included the Koyukuk River so I just
20 need a clarification on the motion?

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: My understanding as the
25 seconder and Jack can speak, is that, we were dealing with
26 the Kuskokwim because they already have it in the lower part
27 of the river and this just makes it uniform up the river.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: We haven't discussed this fully
32 about the Koyukuk River for subsistence rod and reel fishing
33 but we may -- does the Council feel that it would be worth
34 putting the Koyukuk in there also?

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Automatically I will say, yes,
37 but -- Benedict.

38

39 MR. JONES: Yeah, the only subsistence rod
40 and reel fishing in the Koyukuk River is sheefish species in
41 September. That's all I know of, no salmons.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, would you feel
44 comfortable if we just left it out for the time being?

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I would feel comfortable
47 until further discussion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. For your information

50 was had a KRAC meeting in Allakaket and we introduced that

00063

1 seven day proposal for fish, king salmon and all species of
2 fishing on the Koyukuk and we got what we wanted so we can
3 fish seven days a week right now provided that we don't go
4 over the limit on salmon. Vince.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, to make sure
7 everybody can track with you, you've been with us bureaucrats
8 too long, you're starting to use acronyms and I think you're
9 losing your audience. When he talks about KRAC, that's the
10 Kuskokwim River Local Advisory Committee, it's the State
11 Advisory Committee, it's not a radio station.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: So I will try periodically with
16 Staff and with Council when we do get into acronyms to keep
17 the audience informed of where we're going. But that's the
18 local advisory committee that's being discussed there.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. And that is
21 a State Advisory Committee. Gerald.

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, it seems like we've been
24 going off our agenda here, we're supposed to be talking about
25 in-season delegation to field managers, subsistence or
26 projected salmon runs and then the Yukon coordinated
27 fisheries. We have to stick to our agenda if we're going to
28 do anything.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. Where are
31 we Vince?

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we were trying to
36 get an assessment of what the Board of Fish and we're also
37 getting an assessment of in-season management on the State
38 side. I'm not sure we accomplished that because we went off
39 onto sportfish, but that is still before us, I believe, and
40 then that's where I would understand we need to go. It's
41 basically an understanding of what does the projection look
42 like for the upcoming season? What conservation measures may
43 be needed and where they would apply and what role the
44 Federal government -- well, the Federal program, excuse me,
45 would provide that since that is the platform of this
46 meeting.

47
48 So I'm going to turn to the Staff that are
49 all at the tables and see if I got that right. Because I

50 think we did go down off on sportfish but we did not complete

00064

1 discussion of what does it look like for 2001 and what are
2 the plans for 2001 in reference to the salmon on both rivers?

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Fred, were you done or
5 not?

6

7 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Monty.

10

11 MR. MILLARD: We should get into the chinook
12 and summer chum salmon outlook and fall chum outlook for this
13 next season and then follow it up with probably a discussion
14 on subsistence proposals for this next year, what we might be
15 anticipating. What is your time look like to you at this
16 point?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just briefly, I think we can
19 just delete number IV totally and just cover that under
20 Western. I don't think that the proposals, 11, 23, 26, 33
21 and 25 will take long, so maybe it would be best right now to
22 take a lunch break. We are into fisheries and we would like
23 to continue after lunch. Is that fine with everyone? Come
24 back about 1:30 and we'll reconvene.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (On record)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call this meeting
31 back to order. Are we all set and you're recording?

32

33 REPORTER: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we're all set and
36 recording. I'm going to turn the Chair over to Gerald for
37 this afternoon session.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Ron. First
40 off since we got off to a little rough start earlier about
41 this fisheries thing, what I want to do here is for the in-
42 season management, we're down to in-season manager
43 delegation, we want to hear a little bit of that, subsistence
44 takeover, we want to hear a little bit about that -- a little
45 bit. And what I want to hear is -- what I want to really
46 hear from the in-season manager is how much -- what's the
47 time limits in the districts, if that's possible on Federal-
48 controlled waters and Y-1 is going to fish how long, Y-2 and
49 Y-3 and so on.

00065

1 That's how I want this fisheries thing to
2 continue. The coordinated fisheries committee, we could
3 touch on that if we have the time but I want to hear from the
4 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. So when Jill
5 Klein comes back I want to hear what they have to do.
6 There's other parts, down to the -- most of this other stuff
7 in Part II is mostly informational and we'll do it if we have
8 the time. And then Ron wants to say something about Part IV.

9
10 MR. SAM: Yes, I'd like to just go over why
11 I wanted to delete it. It was just my understanding that
12 Eastern Interior met yesterday and covered their section and
13 at that time I plan to cover Section IV under Western
14 Interior. But there may be a few items that relate to both
15 Eastern and Western, so if there's time -- I think there will
16 be time, we will go back into Number IV on the agenda.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, real quick here,
21 we just need to do a check. We have Micki Stickman on-line
22 from Nulato. Micki, can you still hear us?

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I can hear you pretty
25 good.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, was that loud enough for
28 all the Council members and others to hear Micki if he has
29 comments? We'll have to periodically just ask him if he has
30 comments, to make sure that the line is still up and that he
31 is still on-line. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Monty, you want to
34 finish off and just follow along just how I said it?

35
36 MR. MILLARD: I never do that, come on
37 Gerald.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. MILLARD: I'll try. Basically, I
42 realize, you know, you're all short on time, you're getting
43 a little bit tired of these meetings but I think this next
44 period of time whether it's 30 minutes or an hour is probably
45 the most important discussion this year and it goes far
46 beyond sportfishing and other things. This is where we get
47 to, where Gerald was at, in participating and inclusion. I'm
48 always uncomfortable with making decisions or attempting to
49 make decisions without input, particularly from the RACs, so

50 I hope you'll bear with us a little bit on this because we

00066

1 will be talking about subsistence issues that's going to
2 impact you and all your fellow fishers along the Yukon River.
3 It's not going to be a good year.

4
5 First of all, I would like to turn this back
6 over to the State and they're going to give just a very brief
7 discussion of the outlook for chinooks and fall chums, summer
8 chums and pinks, and cohos, are going to fall right in behind
9 them. So I don't think we need to dwell on that particular
10 aspect. And then I will go into a document that was provided
11 at the YRDFA meeting where the State provided some
12 suggestions and following that, I'll provide my own
13 recommendations, thoughts for your consideration. Very
14 little of this has been discussed with Staff. It was
15 discussed with the Regional Office and essentially, you know,
16 this is supposed to be a wide open discussion, a
17 brainstorming session with the RAC members and you're going
18 to help guide me in my decisions this coming year and I
19 certainly appreciate it.

20
21 A lot of tough decisions are going to have to
22 be made. So at this point, if it's okay with the Chair, I'll
23 turn it over to the State.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. For your
28 reference we handed out a document earlier, it looks
29 something like this Yukon River drainage chinook and summer
30 chum salmon 2001 outlook. And to be real brief, this
31 document gets to the point, for the chinook salmon, just
32 reading down it, typically the majority of the chinook salmon
33 return to the Yukon River are six year old fish. Of course,
34 there's five and seven year old and four year old components.
35 But a majority of the fish that we're targeting are six year
36 old fish. Parent year escapements were in 1995, they were
37 judged to be average or above-average. However, the last
38 three years the returns have exhibited extremely poor
39 production with below average trends and survival. And
40 therefore it is unlikely that the 2001 chinook salmon run
41 will support a commercial harvest and subsistence
42 restrictions may be necessary to meet escapement objectives.

43
44 All right, from here I'll go into the fall
45 chum outlook. It's very similar. It's in the booklet, the
46 yellow on, Yukon River fall chum outlook, Page 8, again, it's
47 the same format. Parent year returns for the fall chum is
48 1996 and 1997. While producing the age five and age four
49 fish are returning in 2001. 1996 the escapement to the Yukon

50 River drainage was well above average. 1997 the escapement

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1 to the Yukon River drainage was only slightly above average.
2 So both years, '96 and '97 were above average. However, the
3 last three years of returns have exhibited extremely poor
4 production with estimates of less than one fish per spawner.
5 Relatively the average is two and a half returns per spawner,
6 so it's a significant reduction in production or returns off
7 those fish that escape. And therefore, the 2001 fall chum
8 salmon return may not be able to support a commercial harvest
9 and subsistence restrictions may be necessary to meet the
10 optimal escapement goals.

11
12 Other spin-offs may be that such as the coho
13 on the Yukon River may be within the escapement range or may
14 be abundant enough to have a commercial fishery but quite
15 likely, like this past year, the chum concerns will mean that
16 coho will be exploited to a less extent than we could.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Fred.....

19
20 MR. BUE: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA:could you touch on
23 the summer chums a little bit?

24
25 MR. BUE: Okay, summer chums, again, and the
26 handout with the chinook, the summer chum will be the last
27 page. And again, that's the same parent year, the 1996/97
28 fish are returning and this year, 2001, in combination.
29 Escapements in both of those parent years were judged to be
30 average to above average. However, again, the last three
31 years returns have been extremely poor production with the
32 estimates less than one fish per spawner, same as the fall
33 chum. Therefore, the 2001 summer chum salmon return may not
34 be able to support a commercial harvest or most likely will
35 not support a commercial harvest and subsistence restrictions
36 may be necessary. Mr. Chairman.

37
38 MR. MILLARD: Do you have any additional
39 questions for Fred?

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: If you guys were going to
42 put restrictions on it with this outlook, would you start on
43 the first pulse, second pulse or what's your plan on as the
44 pulse is coming through the Yukon River, what's your plan on
45 putting the restrictions, at the mouth or where you start?
46 Like I heard a 36 hour, three day deal.

47
48 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, the last Board of
49 Fish meeting in January, initially what has changed is that

50 prior to the commercial fishery there had been seven day a

00068

1 week subsistence fishing period until we opened the
2 commercial fishing and then we would go to pulses or some
3 sort of restrictions so that you weren't subsistence fishing
4 simultaneous with commercial fishing and break it up and
5 such. The likelihood of not having a commercial fishery and
6 through a conservative nature, the Board did establish
7 fishing periods per week from the very beginning prior to
8 commercial fishing and those -- that schedule, I guess as I
9 presented earlier this morning, on the regulatory changes,
10 the bottom of the page had those times that the Board adopted
11 and put that into regulation. Beyond that, then we would go
12 based on test fishing and Pilot Station sonar and we would
13 adjust fishing accordingly as we see fit. But overall, what
14 the intent of the Board directed us to do is to try to
15 apportion that throughout the river equally so if we have a
16 50 percent reduction in fishing time -- subsistence fishing
17 in the lower river, we try to set that throughout the
18 drainage so that -- to the best of our ability try to
19 apportion that throughout. It's not necessarily hour for
20 hour or day for day, but it's what your current schedule is
21 right now, say, upper, you have five days a week, we may cut
22 that in half. If the lower river, you have two 48 hour
23 periods a week, we'd cut that in half and say two 24 hour
24 periods. That would be the sort of.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: And Fred, this all
27 depends on the first pulse right, and then whatever happens
28 after that? It all depends on how much fish comes up there
29 right?

30
31 MR. BUE: Correct. That's what we would be
32 -- part of the idea is a window and so not all the fish are
33 taken down river, that we would try to spread it throughout
34 the run.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: And there's another
37 question that I never really got answer to, through all the
38 meetings we've been to, is that -- what was it now, see, the
39 is the commercial opening closed by emergency order or is it
40 the other way around -- commercial is closed and opened by
41 emergency order; what's the State's position on that?

42
43 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, commercial is
44 open and closed by emergency order. At this point, normally
45 we wait until we see some sort of indication that the run
46 would be building significantly enough to have a commercial
47 opening and then it would be -- the length and time would be
48 adjusted depending on how we interpret the strength of that
49 pulse.

00069

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Craig, you had a
2 question.

3
4 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've
5 been told that the fish that are coming into the Upper Yukon
6 and into the neck of the woods or stretch of the river that
7 I live, Fort Yukon, it comes primarily from the first pulse
8 and the fish that are spawning in the Upper Yukon are also
9 primarily in the first pulse, I may be wrong, correct me if
10 I am please. But if I'm not wrong and we open 36 hour
11 periods down at the mouth when the first pulse is coming
12 through, I'm thinking that that may jeopardize the amount of
13 fish that make it to the spawning grounds and, of course, if
14 that's the case it's also jeopardizing the amount of fish
15 that we're getting in the Upper Yukon. And as everybody
16 knows here we get almost nothing from year to year and with
17 management strategies as they have been, people at the mouth
18 get what they need, people a little further get a little less
19 than what they need and so on and so forth until it gets to
20 the Yukon Flats where we get one or two fish. And I want to
21 know what sort of guarantees this fishing schedule is making
22 to the people in the Upper Yukon River as far as meeting
23 escapement goals and meeting our subsistence needs? If we
24 open it up for the first pulse, what's going to be left for
25 us?

26
27 MR. MILLARD: Bonnie's looking at me like I
28 should handle that.

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have a few
31 comments.

32
33 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Micki.

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I wanted to ask about,
36 you know, they talked about cutting the fishing schedules in
37 half and it's just like Craig Fleener says, down at the mouth
38 they get 100 percent of their subsistence needs and then
39 because they can do that in one day with their fishing gear,
40 but when it gets up to our area, you know that we always have
41 to fish longer and harder to actually meet the same needs
42 that we had forever.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I could probably shed a
45 little light on this. What the State is doing is they're
46 restricting the YK, the YK was able to fish subsistence seven
47 days a week now they're being cut down to being only able to
48 fish two 36 hour periods a week; that's what the real issues
49 are and I think that should answer it.

00070

1 What we have to understand is that YK is
2 being restricted right here and we shouldn't restrict them
3 anymore than that because they were allowed to subsistence
4 seven days a week last year and now they're getting down to
5 two 36 hour periods.

6
7 Craig.

8
9 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, while I appreciate
10 the amount of trouble they're going to be going through only
11 being able to fish for three days as compared to four days if
12 you look at the amount of hours -- or seven days if you look
13 at the amount of hours, I still can't stop worrying that if
14 the first pulse is going to be severely impacted, the amount
15 of fish we get -- every pulse goes by their villages, every
16 pulse, every single one. So there's opportunity. Their
17 river is narrow, that gives them more opportunity. Their
18 gear is very good, you know, that gives them more
19 opportunity. And it's not that I'm picking on them, I'm just
20 worried about the people in the Upper Yukon, our river is
21 wide, it's three miles wide at Fort Yukon, there's lots of
22 channels, lots of places for the fish to go. And lots of
23 them have taken off up other streams by the time they make it
24 into Fort Yukon. And unless we can do something to make sure
25 the fish are going to get past some of these nets and
26 whatever else in the Lower Yukon, you know, it doesn't matter
27 if you cut them back to 10 hours a week. If they're able to
28 get that first pulse, you know, and get it in large numbers,
29 it doesn't matter how much you cut them back. If they're
30 able to still meet their subsistence need from the first
31 pulse, that means that that much fewer fish are going to make
32 it into the spawning grounds and the Yukon and that many
33 fewer are going to make it into our nets in the Upper Yukon.

34
35 And I'm still looking for some direction as
36 to whether or not my assumptions were correct, is it the
37 first pulse that's coming into the Yukon Flats and spawning
38 in the Yukon and are there other pulses that we actually have
39 an opportunity to harvest?

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Monty.

42
43 MR. MILLARD: It's obvious that the first
44 period, the first 10 or 15 days are probably upper river
45 bound fish, clear into two-thirds of the season, however they
46 start diminishing as the season progresses. But I would like
47 to point out and what makes it all difficult for you, when
48 we're talking about subsistence harvest, I'd like to point
49 out that in 1999 the year was so poor that if we had not

50 harvested a single fish, commercial, subsistence or sport, we

00071

1 still would not have made escapement on a basin-wide basis.
2 So that's what we're here today for, for some guidance. Not
3 only are we talking about restrictions, what else should we
4 be talking about?

5
6 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, yeah, if it's a fact
7 that the first 15 days are of extreme importance to the Upper
8 Yukon and to spawning salmon, I would plead with whoever has
9 the authority to do so and with the Lower Yukon people that
10 we work to try to let some of those fish pass for the purpose
11 of escapement and for the purpose of feeding the people in
12 the upper stretches of the Yukon.

13
14 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, I do hope we can
15 hear from the Lower Yukon folks that are here? I mean these
16 discussions definitely involve them, Angie and Alex Fritz,
17 this is very important for them to have input. Actually,
18 we'll be meeting in Kotlik and some of the same discussions
19 will occur, but I hope that this discussion goes a little bit
20 further than where we're at at the present time.

21
22 MR. STICKMAN: Gerald.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, hold on, Micki, we
25 have Alex here from YK-Delta that wants to speak on this
26 issue. You'll be next, Micki.

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 MR. NICK: Than you, Mr. Chairman. As a
31 retired commercial fisherman and also a person who worked
32 with the Department research staff in the late '60s and early
33 '70s, my personal experience with the Lower Yukon fishery is
34 that it depends on where the run is when the opening is
35 scheduled. If an opener is scheduled for four hours, people
36 could catch thousands of fish within that four hours time.
37 If the run is scheduled just right. But if it's scheduled --
38 like for a 36 hour schedule or a 12 hour schedule, whatever
39 the schedule may be, happens to be the wrong timing, then
40 people won't catch any fish. So it really depends on the
41 timing of the opening, you know, whether it's commercial or
42 subsistence.

43
44 One other thing that I would like to share
45 with the Councils and the Staff, is that, in Lower Yukon,
46 like around Marshall -- or rather Russian Mission and the
47 mouth of the Yukon, there's three different species of
48 chinook salmon that our elders talk about. We have one
49 specie that's very fat and silvery that comes, not with the

50 first run, not with the second run, maybe third or fourth run

00072

1 of the chinook salmon and our elders tell us that these are
2 destined to way up river, I don't know what they meant by way
3 up river, it could be your area. But you know, those are
4 some of the traditional knowledge our elders shared with us,
5 you know, during those days.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Micki.

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, I wanted to ask him, to
12 meet their subsistence needs, how much fish do they usually
13 get downriver? I mean, you know, like their families? I
14 mean like for my family it's 100 chinook would definitely
15 cover my subsistence needs.

16
17 MR. NICK: To respond to your question
18 regarding how many fish we harvest for subsistence, my family
19 of seven harvest approximately, at a maximum of 80 chinooks
20 and probably no more than 200 chum salmon, that will get us
21 through the year.

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thank you. The one
24 thing that I wanted to make very clear to Monty was that I
25 wanted to -- you know, the amount of time that it takes for
26 us to cover our subsistence needs. I mean on a really good
27 fishing day it will take me eight hours to get 20 chinook.
28 But I think as you get further down the river it takes less
29 and less time to get the same amount of fish.

30
31 MR. MILLARD: I certainly hear that, Micki,
32 and I think it's been expressed over and over. Again, I
33 think kind of looking at this next year, there's, I think,
34 moral responsibilities to your children and I have a legal
35 responsibility myself to protect escapement and I would like
36 to -- you know, hopefully the RACs can say what are we going
37 to do to protect escapement? There's some recommendations
38 but I'd still like to see a lot more discussions from the
39 RACs on their opinions on this.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Did that answer your
42 question, Micki?

43
44 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. You know, Monty, I know
45 we all have to bear the brunt of conservation, so I was
46 wondering, is there some place out in the ocean where the
47 chinook salmon are caught commercially, too, before they hit
48 the Yukon or is that something that wasn't -- or is that
49 something that isn't looked at?

00073

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Micki, I'll let Monty
2 answer that.

3
4 MR. MILLARD: Well, I think, Micki, that
5 there's been considerable discussions about this but I
6 personally, and I think its' acceptable to other managers
7 along the Yukon River, that it's probably -- overharvest does
8 occur, there's fish taken in Area M, there's all kinds of
9 problems, but if you start looking at some of the weights of
10 the fish the past few years, the weights are going down on
11 the fish, lengths are still about the same but weights are
12 going down which points out to be a productivity problem.
13 And something that's never discussed, last year was an even
14 year, that means the pink salmon should have been coming back
15 in tremendous numbers. The Andreafsky weir had about 34,000
16 go through the Andreafsky weir last year, it sounds like a
17 lot but on even years, it's normally over a half a million,
18 half a million. No one talks about the pink salmon. No one
19 talks about what occurred to those. And certainly the
20 Russians and the Chinese and Japanese are not out there
21 harvesting pink salmon so where are these fish going? It's
22 a productivity problem, in my opinion.

23
24 And I know it's so simplistic to me, you
25 know, you always want to blame people further out, Area M,
26 but I don't -- it's a personal opinion, but I don't think
27 that's our problem.

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. You know, the one other
30 thing that I would like to say is that, you know, since it
31 seems like we're all going to be bearing the brunt of the
32 conservation evenly on the Yukon, it's still going to be like
33 -- you know, there's probably going to be more than likely no
34 commercial fishing on the Yukon River for chinook anyway, are
35 we going to be looking at going from village to village and
36 doing a subsistence survey to see how people are doing before
37 all fishing is even stopped?

38
39 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, Micki, yeah, of
40 course that's going to occur. It's going to be evaluated on
41 the very first day. And a YRDFA teleconferences, which will
42 include RAC members, all this information is very important.
43 And the test fisheries at the lower mouth will provide
44 information, the sonar eventually. Any subsistence
45 opportunities in the lower river are very important also
46 because it helps document what's occurring, which is in the
47 test fisheries, and gives us a little bit more confidence in
48 what we're seeing down there. But of course, it's going to
49 be evaluated on a day to day basis.

00074

1 MR. STICKMAN: The one other question that I
2 have that is on the -- I don't want to keep on going back to
3 Area M, but I know they did put like 60 to 70 percent
4 restrictions on them by the use of windows, I was wondering
5 if that was going to be happening this year or next year?

6
7 MR. MILLARD: I'll turn that over to Bonnie,
8 I assume it's this year.

9
10 MS. BORBA: Mr. Chairman, those regulations
11 will be put into place before this coming season, so it
12 should help as far as whatever fish they are catching that
13 are bound for Western Alaska, it won't be just the Yukon it
14 will be the other areas also, hopefully it will put some
15 additional fish up into the rivers.

16
17 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks, Bonnie.

18
19 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, do you wish to go
20 into what the fishing schedule that's in regulation?

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, hold on Micki and
23 Monty, I got to let Angela speak on a question over here,
24 about what we were just talking about.

25
26 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our
27 biggest concern down in Y-3 is that when these openings,
28 these two 36 hour periods are going to be happening, if the
29 fish go by and it's our closed down time, we asked in Holy
30 Cross, what's going to happen if we don't get the fish in
31 those two 36 hour periods and we never did get an answer.
32 We're really worried about getting our fish this year if
33 these openings and closings are going to happen. Because we
34 wait for the fish when the river goes out, the ice goes by,
35 when all the ice has gone by -- you guys have clear water up
36 there already, we don't go fishing until the ice is gone and
37 then we look for the sheefish and then we know that in two or
38 three days the kind salmon are coming. So if we're waiting
39 for sheefish and they close us down and then by the time they
40 open it up the king salmon have gone by, we won't get those
41 fish of the first pulse, we might get the second or the
42 third. Our concern down river is that we may not be able to
43 get any fish at all with these kind of openings.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You want to add something
46 Craig?

47
48 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I wonder, you
49 know, we're talking about how limiting these periods are to

50 meeting subsistence needs and I guess we all pretty much have

00075

1 to give up a little somewhere, I guess, but I wonder if a
2 village quota or something -- I don't know if I should even
3 mention or if it's something that's feasible but I wonder if
4 quotas for communities can be used. Either way, if we
5 establish a quota and everybody down river gets it out of the
6 first pulse we'll get nothing. So you know we have one pulse
7 coming into the Yukon Flats, I think, nobody's told me
8 otherwise yet, we have one pulse making it into the Upper
9 Yukon River to spawn. So if everybody gets their fish out of
10 the first pulse, you know, we'll have seven or 10 percent
11 spawning salmon again or whatever it was and that's just
12 going to mean more trouble down the road.

13
14 So I think we need to do something to ensure
15 that the first pulse gets through or else the Upper Yukon
16 River is going to be destined to have no fish sooner or later
17 and then that will really impact the fishing in the Lower
18 Yukon River, because you won't have a choice to not have a
19 first pulse, now, you have a choice to fish first, second and
20 third and like you said, all the pulses down further, but if
21 these salmon aren't able to get to the spawning grounds, you
22 know, that first pulse will no longer be there and then your
23 second pulse will be your first pulse and we'll be eating
24 canned salmon in the Upper Yukon.

25
26 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Craig, to follow-up
27 a little bit on the information about, you know, the fish
28 that are going by Fort Yukon and Eagle, you know, by the
29 Yukon Flats, and again, to supplement the traditional
30 knowledge, there have been both genetic studies and scale
31 pattern analysis done on Yukon River chinook salmon and based
32 on that information, the fish that are bound all the way up
33 to Canada, the fish that are going to be swimming by Fort
34 Yukon and Eagle, they're very abundant in the first pulse to
35 come by and then from that point on in the run, the
36 prevalence of those fish in the pulses diminishes. You know,
37 there are some fish that come by Emmonak in early July that,
38 in fact, are headed for Canada but it's relatively low
39 numbers. By the end of the run it's primarily lower river
40 and middle river stocks that are coming in there at the
41 mouth, but there are a few Canadian fish bound in.

42
43 But again, in terms of getting fish up to the
44 Yukon Flats, getting fish up to escapement in Canada and the
45 aboriginal fisheries there, you know, the very first part of
46 the run is very important, you know, so I think you're
47 exactly right in focusing in there. You know, those are the
48 fish that support your subsistence fishery. Those are the
49 fish that have been in very low abundance the past three

50 years and, again, we got three years of very poor escapement

00076

1 for chinook salmon in Canada and, again, that doesn't bode
2 well for the future either when you got those kind of
3 problems you're building from and then each year you add to
4 that because they're a multiple-year returning fish, we're
5 just making matters worse.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Henry.

10
11 MR. DEACON: What I got to say is supported
12 by Nick and Angela, but, you know, subsistence way of life,
13 I didn't like that the way it happened last year, subsistence
14 in my area, Grayling. When the salmon was just getting to
15 grayling, everybody was getting ready to fish, you know, they
16 was just coming up river and we were about to get ready and
17 then it closed down and by the time it opened up, the fish --
18 most of the fish had all gone by, just like a straggler going
19 by. And those are the things that really should be
20 considered by whoever regulates these things. You know,
21 there's no fishing in Kaltag when there's no fishing in
22 Grayling. It's that simple. It should never happen like
23 that because as an elder I've been fishing that river for 50
24 years of subsistence, I was really shocked to see -- tell me
25 not to fish because, you know, when I've been doing it freely
26 as a need. I don't fish just to fish, I put fish away,
27 that's our way of life. You know, so that subsistence
28 fishing is a very serious thing for the village people that
29 lived in the village all their life, they should never be
30 told they can't fish. They should be able to get four or a
31 five fish a day if you have to, you know, that's the way it
32 should be regulated, by the village people. You need that
33 fish. I don't have to wait until the fish open, the fish
34 wouldn't be there. You know, that's common sense. That
35 should never happen again.

36
37 As soon as the Federal -- I thought the
38 Federals taking over was going to be pretty good for
39 subsistence, well, as soon as Federal took over they started
40 to shut down the subsistence. You know, that's -- I question
41 that. And the State's got a big stick over the Federal, you
42 know, they -- it's not working right, it wouldn't work right.
43 Federal has to listen to the State people and then here we're
44 trying to address our concerns, not really honored in a way,
45 and so therefore, I just kind of -- I really want that
46 subsistence from the village point of view. Let them fish a
47 little when the fish hit the village. Don't close it down.
48 You can close it in Fort Yukon because the fish is not there
49 yet anyway.

00077

1 Okay, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Anybody want to respond
4 to Henry's remark? Monty.

5

6 MR. MILLARD: Yes. Well, it's obvious, you
7 know, it's the same comment that we get all up and down the
8 river and it's something that weighs on all of us here at
9 this particular tables, I don't know exactly how to address
10 it. Because I think you and myself know that if we were to
11 harvest the fish whether it's commercial or subsistence and
12 if we don't make escapement it only harms us in the future
13 and our children in the future and that's the reason we're
14 all drawn here together today, is what are we going to do to
15 provide for the future? And it's so difficult to see the
16 fish go by because it seems like there's a lot of fish out
17 there, you can go out and you can catch four or five fish and
18 you say, so what, but it gets to the point, you know,
19 everyone takes four or five fish, or 100 fish or whatever it
20 may be and escapements aren't met. And it really harms us
21 four or five years down the road.

22

23 And again, you know, I just try to impress upon you
24 that we need to make some decisions on what are we going to
25 do for our future on Federal lands?

26

27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Mike.

28

29 MR. SAVAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fish
30 in Kalskag for all my life and this last year we had a pretty
31 hard time getting kings. My dad took the four-wheeler, the
32 camp's not far from where we set the net and he looked at it,
33 you know, he finally asked me, about an hour later, he said,
34 how deep was the fish and I told him they were way in the
35 bottom by the lead-line. Well, and he told me we're drowning
36 it and I told him I can't do that, I said Fish and Game
37 regulations say we can't do that, and he got mad, he said,
38 drown it, I will take responsibility for it. If they want to
39 come pick me up, they will pick me up. Three days later we
40 were done fishing. He said pull the net out, you guys got
41 enough fish. And he studied that area all, you know, he
42 fished there since '69. And that's something like Henry was
43 saying, you know, look things over, when he says that's it,
44 he tells the whole family. I got three families that work
45 together, we fish together and this year we took only 100
46 kings and that was it, that was not even the first, that was
47 the second run. We usually try to get done before the second
48 run.

49

So that's something that you guys got to

00078

1 really look at, of how these elders fish. They don't just go
2 take like -- probably, you know, take as much as they can and
3 get done. My dad taught me how to go from season to season.
4 That's something that I really respect from him. And I was
5 afraid to drown that net, but I did what he say, if I didn't,
6 he'd -- I'd get bawling out, I'm almost 50 years old and, you
7 know, to get a scolding from an elder, that's something. You
8 know, that's something to me, that's something I really am
9 proud of.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You going to respond to
12 that, Monty?

13
14 MR. MILLARD: No, I don't have a response.

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, well.....

17
18 MR. MILLARD: No.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You had something Craig.

21
22 MR. FLEENER: The only thing I can think of
23 is just to keep going back to what our priorities are and we
24 got three priorities, you know, escapement is number 1,
25 subsistence number 2 and commercial is last, I guess. And I
26 don't think too many people are concerned about commercial
27 fishing right now when we're not even meeting escapement
28 goals, so the two priorities that we're focusing on are
29 meeting escapement goals and subsistence needs. And if we
30 don't meet escapement goals we're not going to have fish. I
31 mean we can look at that pattern all over the place.

32
33 The problem in a lot of other places is that
34 they didn't stop commercial fishing in time and they just
35 kept on commercial fishing until there was nothing left. And
36 of course, part of the problem is damming rivers up and all
37 these other things in some major streams in other parts of
38 the world, fortunately for us we don't have that problem.
39 But if we continue to demand subsistence fishing at all costs
40 because it's what we've done forever, I think we might end up
41 hurting ourselves. I mean I want -- my family likes to eat
42 fish, too, and we want to eat fish and my parents and
43 grandparents have been eating fish forever, but if we keep
44 making demands to get the same amount of fish we've gotten
45 every year, we're not going to have any fish for the future
46 and nobody likes to -- nobody wants to be the one that has to
47 tighten their belt and not take what they need but, you know,
48 in cases like this I think we're going to have to look for
49 some alternative food supplies. Of course in the Yukon Flats

50 we don't have a moose population either so we're kind of

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1 limited there. We don't have caribou so we're kind of
2 limited there.

3

4 But I think, you know, when we're in times of
5 trouble like this and I think it's a traditional concept, if
6 there weren't enough fish one year you went and got something
7 else. If you didn't get a moose you went and got something
8 else. And so what I think we're going to have to do is we're
9 all going to have to look really carefully at our fish
10 population and say, okay, I know my family needs 80 fish this
11 year but, by golly, we're going to try to take a little less
12 here and take something else somewhere else and we're only
13 going to try to get 50. You know, I think if everybody would
14 make an effort along the river to protect the salmon
15 populations so not only others can get them but the primary
16 thing is that we meet escapement goals so we can continue to
17 produce these fish.

18

19 But I almost hate to even talk like this
20 because the subsistence fishermen seems to have been the one
21 who has had to face waste in other parts of the fishing
22 industry and, you know, when it comes to commercial fishing,
23 you know, that shouldn't even be considered when we have low
24 returns but it has been. We have commercial fishing and
25 pollutants that are damaging things all over the place. We
26 have commercial fishing that's taken hundreds of thousands of
27 fish and we're not really limiting it like we should, I don't
28 think. I think we need to really -- instead of just giving
29 lip service, we need to actually take some action and do
30 something. And maybe people have been but I think we need to
31 do something more and I think everybody in all the villages
32 where there are fish problems need to look deep inside
33 themselves and say, okay, I'm going to fish one less -- one
34 or two less days this year and, you know, maybe have a couple
35 less fish than we need but I know I can get an extra caribou.
36 And what we're going to have to hope for is that the State
37 and the Federal government would support this. You know, I
38 mean if we're not able to meet our subsistence with one
39 species we're going to have to get it somewhere else and the
40 Yukon Flats is a bad example of a place to talk like that
41 because we don't have much else. I guess we can go after
42 ground squirrels. We don't have muskrats either, so it's
43 pretty dry up there. Fortunately we got lots of geese and
44 ducks that fly into that country but of course that's
45 illegal, too, so you know for spring harvesting. So we're in
46 a bad situation.

47

48 But the rest of you who do have a lot of food
49 sources, I think I would try to focus on those and ask

50 yourselves and talk to your elders and say, you know, we need

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1 to do something to protect these for future generations. And
2 the State and the Federal government has to be willing to be
3 flexible to let us take other types of food that we need in
4 these tough conditions. And we've got to be a lot tougher on
5 all this waste that's going on.

6
7 I could go on for a long time, I'm getting
8 kind of irritated.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Tom, you wanted to
11 respond?

12
13 MR. KRON: Yeah, very briefly. I guess a
14 couple of points. You know, we've talked about the
15 escapement priority and the need to put some fish on the
16 spawning grounds so there are fish coming back in five to
17 seven years for you to harvest then. Last year in some of
18 the areas the escapements were record or near record low
19 levels, you know, just a fraction, you know, 10, 20 percent
20 of what we would like to see in some of these streams. And
21 when you have that sort of a number of spawners in a stream,
22 it takes a long time to rebuild to get them back up to the
23 numbers, even with good survival. It's very difficult to
24 rebound from that. And again, to the extent you prolong
25 this, when you have fish returning at five, six, and seven
26 years of age, it makes it more and more difficult in the
27 future.

28
29 So again, I think Monty's asking, you know,
30 for guidance and direction about how to deal with things.
31 You know, it was for all of us, none of us thought it would
32 ever get this bad with king salmon on the Yukon River. Last
33 year, you know, Bonnie is responsible for the subsistence
34 harvest surveys for the Department and has done a really good
35 job with that working with, I think, people throughout the
36 river, but it sounds like we got record low fall chum
37 harvests, you know, record low king salmon harvest. The king
38 salmon harvest last year were maybe a little over half of
39 what's normal. So a lot of people were hurting.

40
41 And I guess another direction that we've been
42 hearing from everybody is let's -- whatever harvest can
43 occur, let's make sure we spread it out so it's fair, you
44 know, that people in Eagle and Fort Yukon get a percentage
45 and people in Emmonak and Alakanuk get a percentage. You
46 know, last year the way things happened, people in the lower
47 river were able to get a pretty good percentage of what they
48 normally take but by the time the fish were getting to the
49 upper river, you know, it was being closed so the farther up

50 the river you were, you know, the less chance you were going

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1 to have of getting any kind of a percentage of what you
2 normally would take. The directions now, I know from the
3 State Board and we've discussed it with the Coordinating
4 Fisheries Committee, is, well, do what you can as managers,
5 you know, and we want to work with the RACs on this, figure
6 out an approach whereby you can allow everybody to get some
7 fish and be able to take as many as you can but focus in on
8 escapement as well.

9
10 And I guess, again, I think Monty was asking
11 for help and direction from the Regional Councils as to how
12 to put together a plan to be able to do that.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, thank you, Tom. I
17 think the way to go about managing fish so it will be equal
18 up and down the river is you monitor the first pulse by the
19 setnets that are out there. Listen to John Hanson and Harry
20 Wilde, where they put those setnets, don't put them in the
21 same place every year, listen to them. Put one there in the
22 original spot and the other one in the other spot and go by
23 the driftnet, establish that driftnet out there and go by --
24 let them fish on the first pulse, but give them time limits
25 on the first pulse so the upriver -- the first pulse goes all
26 the way to the Yukon River and goes by Fort Yukon, so give
27 them a time -- give everybody time, really restrict their
28 time limits on the first pulse so it could make it through.

29
30 Then impress to Canada after that first pulse
31 goes through that the -- the U.S./Canada treaty, too, that's
32 got to be worked on, too, because after the fish pass through
33 the borderline, they want commercial fishing and that don't
34 help nobody. After that first pulse goes through then let
35 the YK and let the downriver people really fish hard on the
36 second and third pulse to meet their needs but at the same
37 time, restrict the time on these second and third pulses.
38 Let the first pulse kind of go through so that way we can
39 meet our escapement needs.

40
41 I don't like what I'm saying right now
42 because the people I represent would be mad at me. But if we
43 want to make escapement and escapement is the number 1
44 priority, and these fish -- this first pulse goes everywhere,
45 let it go through. Let people fish, to get some fish to eat,
46 a little bit to put away to make it through part of the
47 summer or whatever, but let it go through so we could meet
48 our escapement needs. And then the second and the third
49 pulse, let people fish. Fish within the projected time runs

50 like what they said, two 36 hour periods for the downriver

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1 and a little more time for the upriver and more time for way
2 upriver.

3
4 What's going to bring back the fish if we do
5 let it -- if we do want fish in 10, 15 or 20 years from now,
6 let that first pulse go through because that first pulse goes
7 to every spawning stream in the Yukon River basin and I mean
8 across Canada too. And that negotiation between Canada and
9 the U.S. has to be done. We're only hurting ourselves or
10 whatever -- time limit or whose little thing ain't being
11 pleased or whatever, it has to be done. We have to put our
12 differences aside on this one. Otherwise we're not going to
13 have no more fish to manage.

14
15 Last year was a good example of both sides
16 not doing the right thing. Yeah, sure they did the right
17 thing for the people but did they do the right thing for the
18 resource?

19
20 Okay, Craig.

21
22 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've got
23 three things and Gerald touched on one. Three things that I
24 think we need to do if we're really going to get -- I don't
25 even know if this will give us a grasp on it but it will help
26 us to understand things better and it should help.

27
28 One is getting that agreement with the
29 Canadians signed. You know, if we're not going to have that
30 agreement it doesn't matter what we're doing down here if
31 they're going to catch them all when they get back into a
32 narrow stream up there in the headwaters. So we got to get
33 that agreement taken care of. I think we need to push it
34 through as quickly as we can to protect those spawning
35 salmon.

36
37 I think we need to put money into salmon
38 restoration projects and I'm not talking about the bad word
39 where we're bringing in genetics from other areas but we got
40 to do something to maybe look at these streams where salmon
41 used to spawn or where they used to spawn in higher numbers.
42 We've ignored those smaller streams that could be producing
43 hundreds of salmon or thousands of salmon and just focused on
44 the streams that are producing lots and lots of salmon. I
45 think now is the time that we start focusing on some of these
46 smaller streams that are producing a little bit of fish
47 because every fish that we put in the river is going to help.

48
49 I think we need to focus on restoring those,

50 taking a look at the habitat where these salmon are spawning

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1 and seeing what we can do to protect it and make it better
2 and maybe look at, I don't know, I'm not a fish biologist,
3 but look at putting egg boxes or something in to protect the
4 salmon that are spawning in those areas. And I don't know
5 what I'm really saying but I think we need to do something in
6 those headwaters. I don't think we're doing too much.

7
8 Of course, probably somebody will say
9 something else to that but I don't think we're doing enough.

10
11 And another thing, we have to have is a needs
12 assessment in our communities. I think we ought to get off
13 of our rear ends, get up and go into every community that
14 harvests fish and ask them what they need -- ask them what
15 they want, ask them what they need, ask them what they can
16 live with. You know, if we're truly trying to manage and
17 understand subsistence, we have to understand the amount
18 people need. We've been talking about this for a year now,
19 but I don't see us really attacking this full head-on, and I
20 think we have to understand the exact amount needed in every
21 community and then maybe we can start limiting the amount
22 that some people take because we'll understand the needs. If
23 we're going to limit across the board, we can probably do it
24 much more equitably if we understand what every community
25 along the river needs. If we don't understand that, we're
26 just guessing and we're just wasting our time. Let's stop
27 guessing. It's going to cost a lot of money but, heck, we're
28 the richest country in the world, we can afford it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Monty.

31
32 MR. MILLARD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Maybe I'd like to try to carry on, I know you all are anxious
34 to get out of here or whatever, but maybe we can carry this
35 to another level. The comments that have been made are very
36 helpful to me. I think I see and understand where you're
37 coming from and not many real surprises.

38
39 But at the present time I think that there's
40 a consideration of trying to open up subsistence June 1 on
41 the lower river and following it on upstream. Normally
42 they'll start subsistence fishing anytime they wish, it's
43 open seven days a week. They've been restricted to three
44 days a week at the present time. But if we look at some data
45 and we look at average run timing as the fish come in, over
46 the past 20 years, just average run timing, the first quarter
47 of the pulse -- the first pulse will come in on about the
48 18th of June, that's an average, it goes anywhere from the
49 11th of June to the 22nd of June. The median, in other

50 words, half the run, based on average run timing is the 20th

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1 of June -- pardon me, let me back up. It's the 15th of June
2 for the first quarter and the median is the 20th of June on
3 an average and last year it was the 25th of June for the
4 median. I'm just pointing this out that maybe there's
5 something we can do here rather than opening it up on the
6 1st. And this, I think is extremely important that the RACs
7 from the lower river and Angie participate in this particular
8 discussion. But what if we opened up subsistence fishing in
9 the lower river on say, the 15th of June which is quarter or
10 -- and/or the median which is the 20th of June. By the 20th
11 of June that first pulse of fish will have completely passed
12 Emmonak.

13
14 Again, I need to know from the lower river
15 fishers, can they still get their subsistence needs met by
16 fishing later than the 15th or the 20th of June rather than
17 starting on the 1st and allow that first pulse of fish go to
18 Canada, to move upstream for other fishers to participate in?
19 I guess this is where I really need the help from the lower
20 RACs.

21
22 MR. NICK: Based on my personal experience on
23 the first run of salmon in the Lower Yukon, it really depends
24 on the season. Sometimes salmon are caught in Russian
25 Mission before salmon are caught down in the Lower Yukon.
26 Sometimes salmon are maybe caught in Holy Cross area before
27 someone in Russian Mission catches any salmon. So it really
28 depends on the salmon run. And I think in the Lower Yukon,
29 one of the earliest runs of salmon that I've heard are in
30 May, end of May -- rather end of May or early June. So it
31 really depends on the season I believe and the water levels.
32 How high the water is in the Lower Yukon by the time the
33 salmon are coming in. And that's my personal experience.

34
35 MR. MILLARD: Angela, what would happen to
36 you, for instance, or your fishermen if we didn't open up
37 subsistence fishing until the 20th of June?

38
39 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I think the 20th of June
40 would be really late. Sometimes we've got fish around the
41 10th of the month and we'd be done by the 24th of June. But
42 a lot of times we didn't get fish until after the 20th of the
43 month, like last year we got them late. And we really
44 heavily depend on the Fourth of July run because the Fourth
45 of July, everybody's out the Fourth of July so we'd be out on
46 the river getting our fish because we always fish on Fourth
47 of July, so we get the July Fourth run. Those are those big
48 fish. But anything later than the 20th would be kind of
49 late.

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1 MR. MILLARD: Well, I think you've heard from
2 the discussions and I think it's obvious to you, too, if this
3 next year is anything like last year there are going to have
4 to be restrictions and I guess we're just trying to determine
5 what's the best way to apply restrictions. And my
6 recommendation is that we allow the first pulse of fish to go
7 through and by the first pulse, I don't know if we can really
8 determine it by saying these are Canadian or not, but putting
9 a date on, approximate date, it can be moved in future years
10 to different times, but when do we open up subsistence to
11 allow upper river fishermen to have a share in the harvest
12 and that provides for escapement, it provides possibly for
13 subsistence but there's no guarantees, the upriver fishermen
14 may still -- maybe like last year, you know, there's no
15 guarantees out there. We won't know until the fish enter the
16 river.

17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Craig.

19
20 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Monty,
21 I wonder if instead of putting a date on it, if it's being
22 closely monitored at the mouth and you know when the pulse is
23 coming through, can you make that adjustment -- let's say you
24 want to allow fishing down at the mouth when half of the
25 first pulse has gone through or three-quarters, you should
26 know by that time -- because of all the test fisheries or
27 whatever's going on at the mouth, would it be better than
28 setting a date because like these guys over here have said,
29 you know, there may or may not be fish by that time so by
30 setting an arbitrary date, although it may be the average or
31 the median may not work very well. If we're monitoring the
32 fish closely with sonars and with test wheels we should know
33 -- we should have a good idea when we're at the first quarter
34 or the halfway point.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Tom and then.....

37
38 MR. KRON: Gerald, Craig, I guess my
39 recommendation would be to go somewhere along the lines of
40 what you're saying. I think it's important to build some
41 flexibility in. It's probably likely that the ice will go
42 out fairly early this year. But things like time of ice out
43 can have a tremendous impact on when those good numbers of
44 kings start coming into the Yukon River. There have been
45 years when the ice hasn't gone out until mid-June, you know,
46 I think the 18th was one of the later years back in the
47 1980s. And when that sort of thing happens, you get a big
48 push of fish immediately after the ice goes out and it builds
49 very fast. But again, I think it would be good to build in

50 some flexibility rather than lock in on dates here. Build in

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1 a concept that you're going -- that you want to protect a
2 certain percentage of the run up front and then allow some
3 flexibility to managers to adjust for that based on how the
4 run comes in. Some of the fish are coming in under the ice.

5
6 But again, the intent.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Tom.....

9
10 MR. KRON: Thanks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Alex.

13
14 MR. NICK: One of the difficulties that the
15 local users experience in the springtime is like I mentioned
16 earlier, there's -- you know, it really depends on where the
17 water level is in Yukon River. When there's too much debris
18 in the Yukon River, all of the junk drifting down the Yukon
19 River, nobody, not even Department's test fishery will be
20 successful because, you know, there could be fish already
21 running in the Yukon River and the Department and the
22 subsistence users, they wouldn't know whether or not if
23 there's salmon in the river until all of that is cleared out
24 because no one will be able to fish. That's another
25 consideration that needs to be taken.

26
27 And I'm pretty sure that, you know, along the
28 same line in Kotlik, when the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional
29 Council, some of this will be brought up, I'm pretty sure.

30
31 I just wanted to share this with Eastern and
32 Western Council members because, you know, they might be
33 wondering about it, too.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ron.

38
39 MR. SAM: Yeah, how much time are we going to
40 be spending on this because it seems pointless to go through
41 a bunch of this until we get some kind of agreement out of
42 the YK-Delta meeting.

43
44 MR. MILLARD: At this point what do we take
45 to the YK-Delta meeting to discuss? What are we going to
46 provide them? What's acceptable? What might be acceptable?
47 We ought to have a list of various options, you know, I've
48 thrown out one that we delay opening subsistence on the
49 entire river until the 15th or the 20th or whatever date we

50 may choose. I mean we can go all the way to no fishing at

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1 all. I mean what are the options in front of us to protect
2 escapement? Protect your children's fish? Personally, you
3 know, quite honestly it hasn't been decided, it hasn't been
4 discussed Staff-wise to speak of, but I would say that we
5 need to go with, at the beginning of the season with half of
6 what the State has put into regulation.

7
8 The State regulations include seven days a
9 week for the coastal district, Koyukuk River subdistrict
10 5(D), Districts 1 through 3 would have two 36 hour periods,
11 District 4, 5(B) and (C), two 48 hour periods, subdistrict
12 5(A) and District 6, two 48 hour periods per week, and the
13 old Minto area five days a week. You know, I just throw it
14 out, I suggest that we can't open the season with this. That
15 if we are, indeed, concerned about conservation of our
16 stocks, that we ought to start the season with half of this
17 and then if we're surprised, happily surprised, we'll move it
18 up.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd say that's good
21 planning there, Monty. Ray, you wanted something to say?

22
23 MR. COLLINS: Well, I was going to say,
24 whatever strategy you're using in the Yukon, you're going to
25 have to consider that for the Kuskokwim, too, I think in
26 terms of dealing with those first pulses down there, of
27 letting some through. Because the same factor may apply,
28 that some of those are going to be heading for the head of
29 the river.

30
31 But another factor, I think we have to think
32 about this year is, the ice, I think is not that thick, at
33 least on the Upper Kuskokwim, it's been one of the warmer
34 winters. So we may have a different break up than we've seen
35 for a long time because of the nature of the winter here and
36 that could affect the timing and that's why you need for
37 flexibility. Like Tom was saying, I don't think you can set
38 a date ahead of time without seeing what's happening to the
39 river and then watching the test runs.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Hold on. Let me ask,
42 Monty, have you gotten some direction or some answers to your
43 questions that you have?

44
45 MR. MILLARD: No. I would like to know how
46 the lower river RACs feel about starting a season off with
47 half of what State regs say at the present time. That's
48 just, again, on Federal lands. Of course that includes the
49 Delta and the Kusko, but is this something that's acceptable?

50 We have to do something. I'm just trying to find out what we

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1 can do as a group.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Monty, could I suggest
4 this. We have a coordinating fisheries group here and some
5 of that group is going down to Kotlik and they could report
6 back to us what is agreed on but this is a good start here to
7 say that half of the State restrictions right off. With
8 that, I'll go see what Fred has to say here.

9

10 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, speaking on the
11 State, I really appreciate this discussion because you're
12 talking about Federal regulation but it plays out a lot on
13 how we initiate the season in State management.

14

15 Also it's not so much -- maybe for your
16 comfort and maybe not that it's a good indicator or anything,
17 but for your comfort is that we're going into the season with
18 the most confidence we ever have had on the projection. We
19 know the projection is going to be low. We're very confident
20 in that. Other years we're pretty wishy-washy, we try to
21 hedge our bets one way or the other and remain flexible. And
22 so this year we are confident that it is going to be a bad
23 run. You, as a Board are trying to come up with, well, what
24 if it surprises us and it is a good run and we're always
25 trying to second guess ourselves in that lower river. By the
26 time we get to the middle river, upper river, we have a good
27 idea how the run is shaping up, we've seen the fish pass and
28 how it's come through but that very front of the run is
29 always difficult for us. This year we're much more confident
30 in our projection. We've got pretty good evidence that it is
31 going to be poor.

32

33 That's all I'd like to say.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Vince.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think for the
38 record it would be easier if the two Councils would agree, it
39 appears to be consensus to agree to doing a half reduction as
40 what was stated by Monty on Page 2 of the handout of the Fish
41 and Game report that was submitted to Holy Cross but it would
42 be easier for Staff and others to get that on the record that
43 that's what you would desire. And I'm not clear if you agree
44 to the later date openings or not. The reason I'm bringing
45 that up is the coordinating fishery committee serves these
46 Councils, but the Council have the power to make the decision
47 of what they would like. So the coordinating fishery
48 committee need that direction from you now because you won't
49 be meeting again until next October.

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1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, with that, let me
2 ask these two Councils this, is, what Monty just proposed,
3 that the State is going to be giving restrictions right off
4 the bat, with two 36 hour openings all the way up and what
5 Monty is asking is that the Federal cut that in half and do
6 we agree with that, and I want to know if we agree with that
7 by consensus instead of voting?

8
9 Jack.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: It's apparent that there needs
12 to be protection for that first portion of the run because
13 those upper stocks have not made escapements at all. So it
14 would be my recommendation, personal recommendation that the
15 first pulse be primarily protected, allow a little harvest so
16 people can get a taste of fish and mainly get their main
17 subsistence from the second and third pulses. That would be
18 through tracking that first pulse and making sure that that
19 pulse has gone through through indices and then when it's --
20 when there's going to be a harvest, allow only half of the
21 harvest time so that people can just get a little bit of
22 that. So that first pulse is primarily protected. It's
23 going to have to be that way, the runs are just going to go
24 all to heck if we don't do something.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Craig.

27
28 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
29 still kind of grappling with the idea of the decreased
30 fishing hours per week. I certainly support letting the
31 first run go through, of course, because I'm going to be a
32 beneficiary of those fish going through and the people that
33 are going to have to give things up are going to have to be
34 these guys so their concurrence with this is very important.
35 I like the idea because I think it will get more salmon on
36 the spawning grounds and that's got to be priority one with
37 us. And so I certainly support the idea of letting the
38 majority of the first pulse go through.

39
40 I'm still wondering about the short fishing
41 periods, how -- if we do let enough fish go through on the
42 first pulse to get up to the Upper Yukon, have we had similar
43 problems with the escapement where the second, third and
44 fourth pulses are going and if we have, then we probably need
45 to consider cutting back on the amount of fishing. If we
46 haven't had those problems then maybe we don't need to cut
47 back more than this because some of these periods are fairly
48 short anyways. But maybe Monty can fill me in on that or
49 someone.

00090

1 MR. MILLARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Like I said
2 earlier, if 2001 is anything like the year 2000, we shouldn't
3 have harvested a single fish in 2000 and we still wouldn't
4 have made escapement. That's how serious it was last year.
5 That's likely how serious it's going to be this next year.
6 And we're just sitting here trying to discuss how we can
7 allow a few people to take a few fish. I mean it's going to
8 be bad.

9
10 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I wonder since Polly
11 Wheeler is here from Subsistence Division and she works
12 closely with a lot of communities, I wonder if we could get
13 her opinion of this idea. I don't know if she's had time to
14 think about it but I think another perspective would be good
15 since we're the same people talking about the same thing.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Polly.

18
19 MS. WHEELER: I haven't had a lot of time to
20 think about this obviously, but it's certainly something that
21 was raised at the Board of Fish. And I guess where the State
22 stands, is that, there's reasonable opportunity. If
23 reasonable opportunity is being restricted significantly then
24 we're looking at Tier II. There was a decision --
25 potentially we're looking at Tier II. There was a decision
26 that the Board -- well, the Board of Fish didn't fully deal
27 with this, the language that they brought up was -- what was
28 it a chronic failure over a life cycle -- to be looking at
29 Tier II -- but I guess, you know, my reaction to -- I mean
30 this fishing schedule that was passed by the Board of Fish,
31 we felt that there was still -- it would still provide
32 reasonable opportunity and if you cut that in half then I
33 guess the evaluation would be, are you still meeting
34 reasonable opportunity and if you're not then there's other
35 considerations that need to be looked at under state law.

36
37 But as far as returns -- I mean Bonnie may
38 want to speak to returns, king returns.

39
40 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Before we go to
43 Bonnie, I'd like Tom to put in a little input here, but not
44 much.

45
46 MR. KRON: Understood, sir. To respond to
47 Craig's question about the distribution on the escapements.
48 The Canadian escapements have been the worst the past three
49 years, there have been major, major shortfalls there. The

50 escapements in the other portions of the drainage, the middle

00091

1 Yukon, Tanana, Koyukuk, you know, have been close to making
2 escapements the past three years, lower river, the same
3 situation, there have been some shortfalls but they haven't
4 been nearly as bad as that first portion of the run, the fish
5 headed to Canada.

6
7 Thanks.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Bonnie.

10
11 MS. BORBA: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I was
12 going to add is you were talking about the fish going into
13 Canada and the pulses and we've already told you about the
14 decrease in the amount of them that may be going to Canada in
15 the additional pulses or later in the season but also 50
16 percent of our harvest are from the Canadian stock so it is
17 spread throughout, you know, there is still significant
18 amounts, I believe, in the other pulses so you would have to
19 be concerned about those, too, throughout the season. Mr.
20 Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. It looks like what
23 I asked for earlier, I never got no consensus from anybody.
24 So Monty, it looks like you're going to have to work a little
25 harder to get this. I'm going to ask these guys again, do we
26 have consensus that if it's predicted to be a bad run and the
27 State's given those time restrictions that Monty just
28 explained, do we agree with Monty that we cut those State
29 restrictions in half just to make escapement, what he
30 explained? It's very dismal for the fish. We want fish. We
31 want fish to meet escapement needs. But last year we never
32 got nothing. The people in my area is expecting the same
33 thing. But what we're trying to do is provide a way for
34 people from the mouth of the Yukon to the Canadian border to
35 get some fish, at least, this year.

36
37 MR. MILLARD: I'd just like to point out that
38 this was what we'd go into the season with, it doesn't
39 guarantee that we won't go up, it doesn't guarantee that we
40 won't go further down. But at least it's a strategy to being
41 the season with.

42
43 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I think I could
44 support that, at least, to enter into the season as long as
45 we remain flexible.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, that flexibility is
48 a good idea and just take it, what we did right here. Vince,
49 you had something.

00092

1 MR. MATHEWS: I'd rather have Benedict first
2 and then I just have a process question, a process point. So
3 Benedict.

4
5 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, how about if
6 we open up the first 24 hours -- I mean 24 hours for the
7 first pulse through the whole Yukon drainage right from the
8 mouth and then consider the other option, what Monty's got,
9 the 36 hour period for the Yukon on the second and third
10 pulse. That way, like Jack said, the people get the taste of
11 the fish in the spring. So that way the whole escapement --
12 the Yukon bound will meet -- might meet the escapement goal.

13
14 You know, for years I've been monitoring when
15 the fish is going to hit the village. Usually what we call
16 the salmon birds, three day birds, three days before the --
17 we wait for that bird to -- we hear that bird and then we set
18 our fish nets and right exactly three days later we catch our
19 first king.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Henry.

24
25 MR. DEACON: Yeah, my question is different.
26 But, you know, a couple years ago I came to a meeting in
27 Anchorage about the high sea fishing and at that time they
28 requested information, what are they doing about the high sea
29 fishing, they intercept all these fish that are coming back
30 to these spawning areas? And we wanted an answer for that
31 and I have never heard anything about it, and I'd like to
32 hear about that at the next meeting on fishing, to see what
33 kind of -- what they're getting. Because when we had that
34 meeting, I heard that they threw away [sic] about 800,000
35 king salmon because they were not the right kind of size or
36 something. So those are the things that the Interior people
37 are asking. It's not the people that are catching a little
38 fish in the river, that's not what's ruining the fishing,
39 it's somewhere out -- more measure than we think of. We
40 could be sitting here talking about all that stuff, and until
41 we can find out what the high sea people are doing, you know,
42 those are the questions that I'd like to have an answer to
43 and then we can talk about some of these regulations of
44 fishing.

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll answer that for you.
47 What they're going to tell you, Henry, is that, they have no
48 jurisdiction out there and our jurisdiction only goes three
49 miles, that's what they'll tell you. That's what they have

50 been tell me.

00093

1 MR. SAM: Two hundred miles.

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's 200 miles. But I'll
4 let Vince go first and then, Tom, again.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: If we're getting close to
7 consensus on this, the main point I wanted to bring up to you
8 is that I need to know that the intent of the consensus
9 position would be that it would caveat on that the same
10 restrictions would apply on State waters so that there would
11 be equal distribution of the burden placed upon subsistence
12 users across the two jurisdictions. Otherwise your request
13 to have of the reduction of the seasons here, to half or less
14 would only apply to Federal lands, if I understand correct,
15 when I talk to the Federal manager, so I'll stop there. I
16 need to clarify what I'm cautioning you on.

17
18 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to add to
19 that, too, something that I think we need to get back from
20 the State and Feds, is, some sort of promise or something
21 that says that they're going to work on this agreement with
22 the Canadians and that we're going to try to work on salmon
23 restoration projects and that they're going to conduct a
24 needs assessment. Because we're giving right now, you know,
25 we keep giving and we'd like to get a little something in
26 return. And I think something that says that the State and
27 Federal agencies are going to work on accomplishing these
28 three tasks, I think would be some sort of good faith effort
29 on their part.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Hold on, Monty, Tom, you
32 had something to kick in briefly.

33
34 MR. MILLARD: Just briefly, a resolution to
35 that effect would be helpful.

36
37 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

38
39 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess real
40 quickly, relative to the high seas fisheries issues, this is
41 one of the things that every year is looked at through the
42 U.S./Canada Joint Technical Committee and the coordination
43 between the U.S. and the Canadian scientist. And there's a
44 section in that analysis that talks about what the catches
45 are in the trawl fishery, for example, the National Marine
46 Fisheries takes the lead on. And again, I think we could
47 present that information to the Councils in the fall, at your
48 next meeting, as requested.

49

I guess the other thing I want to point out

00094

1 is the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, several
2 years ago, took a -- basically made a proposal to the North
3 Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce the by-catch of
4 king salmon in the trawl fishery and chum salmon, as well,
5 and they were successful in implementing plans within that
6 program within Federal jurisdiction.

7
8 Relative to fisheries enhancement issues,
9 since 1996, there have been monies going into fisheries
10 enhancement programs through the U.S./Canada agreement in
11 both Alaska and in Canada. Currently, it's approximately
12 \$400,000 a year that's going into projects and requests for
13 proposals and various things coming in from across the
14 drainage.

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, okay, Tom.....

17
18 MR. KRON: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA:I'm going to ask
21 this again, do we have a consensus what we would agree to
22 with that stipulation that the State -- go ahead, Ron, I'll
23 finish it later.

24
25 MR. SAM: Okay, thank you, Gerald. Thank
26 you, Mr. Chairman. There are two feelings here. Benedict
27 wants that 24 hour instead of 16 and if you're cutting it
28 down to half, are we talking 16 hours; that's my question?

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Monty, are you talking 16
31 hours, two 16 hour periods in the mouth?

32
33 MR. FLEENER: There are two 36?

34
35 MR. MILLARD: Yes, at the present time it's
36 two 36 and it would be one 36 hour period or two 18s, I mean
37 that's negotiable, too. And again, you know, I mean it's
38 going to depend upon a lot of conversations with -- this is
39 something that comes out of this meeting, but you still have
40 to work with the lower river. This is nothing firm, it's
41 simply a suggestion from the Eastern and Western RAC.

42
43 MR. SAM: Yeah, thank you for that
44 clarification. If I understand this right, you're just
45 asking for one 36 hour period, Monty?

46
47 MR. MILLARD: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes.

00095

1 MR. SAM: Okay. Then for that fact, I would
2 support this and I would ask people to go ahead and support
3 it because I think that will be more than enough because that
4 would provide the Lower Yukon and the Lower Kuskokwim time to
5 get their subsistence needs in the second run. I just want
6 to know that it's our understanding that we are recommending
7 to YK Council, that we're asking them to hold back until the
8 second pulse.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We'll we'll go to Angela,
11 can you agree with that?

12
13 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, go ahead, Monty.

16
17 MR. MILLARD: Looking over the
18 recommendations or suggestions that came out of the State, if
19 there was an incremented decrease, which we are suggesting
20 here, cut in half, it would be two 20 hour periods per week
21 and of course that could be adjusting if, I'm assuming, if
22 there's other opportunities there. Essentially what we're
23 just talking about is trying to decrease the fishing effort,
24 roughly in half.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, I think you got
27 your answer here, Monty, is that, to cut that in half to two
28 periods, and then we've kind of all agreed on it but we
29 didn't have total agreement. I want you to notice that, too,
30 and if you have anything to add to that Polly, I'd like to
31 hear it.

32
33 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Gerald. I raised
34 the whole Tier II question earlier and I just -- my
35 understanding of ANILCA and granted it's not certainly
36 probably as good as the Federal Staff here, but it's my
37 understanding that under 804 of ANILCA it says pretty
38 clearly, whenever it's necessary to restrict the taking of
39 populations of fish and wildlife on such lands for
40 subsistence uses in order to protect the continued viability
41 of such populations or to continue such uses, such priority
42 shall be implemented through appropriate limitations based on
43 the application of the following criteria, sort of the
44 Federal version of Tier II. But I guess, you know, getting
45 back to this reasonable opportunity question, if the
46 populations are so bad that we're reasonable opportunity is
47 going to be restricted, then this, I think, might need to be
48 considered, and that's the Federal law.

49

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Vince.

00096

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and
2 following up with Polly, that is correct, but you are also
3 appointed by the Secretary of Interior because of your
4 expertise on subsistence and that you are fully aware that
5 your recommendations and actions before the Federal Board are
6 subject to conservation concerns, substantial evidence and
7 that it's detrimental to subsistence. I believe that the
8 record will reflect that you've extensively talked about the
9 conservation concerns and that you've acknowledged that this
10 will be negatively impacting subsistence, and substantial
11 evidence is based on information that's provided in the
12 materials. But you are in new waters, if you want to use
13 that term, so I'm just cautioning you on that and I think
14 before we move on, someone, preferably probably Monty could
15 capture exactly what we're talking about on the record
16 because this is going to be read over and over and over again
17 in the future.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, let me kick in
20 here. This is like being dropped on us, okay, so we're doing
21 what we can do right now. I'm going to Ron right here.

22
23 MR. SAM: Yeah, I'd like to address a
24 question to Polly or Bonnie. If we cut down this fishing
25 time from two 36 hour periods to one 36 hour period, where
26 would we stand comparatively with the State regulations
27 because I don't want to leave our people out to dry with less
28 opportunity than the State grants?

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Bonnie.

31
32 MS. BORBA: Mr. Chairman, the State
33 regulation would be the one that they adopted at the Board
34 this year of having it at these periods, of the two 36s.
35 Whether or not we do further restrictions from there, that's
36 going to be an in-season decision and until we meet the four
37 years of chronicability, it shouldn't affect our ability to
38 manage that. Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is this a follow-up
41 question?

42
43 MR. SAM: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead Ron.

46
47 MR. SAM: Okay. I would go along with the
48 general consensus of one 36 hour period only if it goes
49 statewide and the State -- that we follow the State actions

50 so that we don't undercut our people -- do you understand

00097

1 what I'm saying?

2

3 MR. MILLARD: Absolutely.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Fritz.

6

7 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've
8 been hearing like no matter how the run turns out there's
9 going to be a king opening in the Lower Yukon River, and I'm
10 hearing about if there's not going to be no 36 hours, then
11 yeah we'll accept 18 hours. What about the kings and chums
12 are in trouble in both of the rivers, give the kings and
13 chums a break and wait for the silvers. It seems like that's
14 the plan for the Kuskokwim. Can't the Department go without
15 opening king season for the Lower Yukon to for the
16 conservation of the species so the upriver people can catch
17 their subsistence quota or whatever, whatever they need?

18

19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Polly.

20

21 MS. WHEELER: I'm sorry, Fritz, I'm not sure
22 we understood your question, are you talking about not having
23 a subsistence king fishery at all?

24

25 MR. GEORGE: No, not having commercial
26 fisheries for kings and chums in the first part of June,
27 that's what I'm asking. Because it seems like the Department
28 is saying that no matter how the strength of the run is
29 there's going to be an 18 hour opening, you know, cutting in
30 half the 36 hours. Can the Department sort of given them a
31 break and let the kings pass through for the summer of 2001
32 as an experiment and see what happens?

33

34 MR. BORBA: Okay, Fritz, the State right now,
35 looking at the outlooks that we have in front of us, we're
36 not planning on, as far as I know, commercial fishing this
37 season. This schedule that's in here is just a starting
38 point on what we might do for subsistence. It's supposed to
39 be able to meet reasonable opportunity at that level. But if
40 the run is poorer than that, we're not even talking
41 commercial, we're looking at what we're going to do to the
42 subsistence schedule in order to still meet our escapement
43 needs on this poor of a run.

44

45 So right now, commercial's off the table.
46 We're just discussing here, the same thing at this meeting
47 is, what are we going to do about subsistence if it's even
48 worse than that?

49

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You guys get an answer

00098

1 there from each other?

2

3 MR. GEORGE: (Nods negatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No.

6

7 MR. STICKMAN: Hello.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Hello, Mike.

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You got something there
14 to add or anything?

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. so
17 if I understand the dialogue correctly, the openings for Y-4
18 where I'm from, will be, one 48 hour opening after the first
19 pulse goes by?

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, Mike, in the first
22 pulse we're trying to cut the time limit in half for the YK
23 area, and what we're trying to do is get consensus and we
24 couldn't get that, now we're going to throw a resolution out
25 and get it over with.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: So just bear with us
30 until we got something coming at you.

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Okay.

33

34 MR. MILLARD: If I may speak, Mr. Chair.
35 Just basically what we're doing here, I think is trying to
36 develop a thought process that needs to be worked out in more
37 detail. The State has come up with incremental decreases for
38 each of the areas if it becomes necessary. And I think we
39 need to have these frank and open discussions early in the
40 season so no one's surprised during the season when it may be
41 required to occur. I just simply suggest that we show our
42 conservation ethics on Federal waters to the State and see if
43 there's a possibility that we can enter the season with
44 something less than what's in regulation. We're all grown up
45 people and we all know what the season was like last year and
46 we're not anticipating anything better this coming year.
47 And, you know, I applaud the discussion that's occurred this
48 afternoon, it's enlightening and it's very helpful.

49

But it's all down in print on the document

00099

1 that's put out, and this is all flexible, it's all just a
2 discussion put to paper.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ron.

5
6 MR. SAM: Yeah, I, too, feel better after
7 this discussion because all of last year, we talked about all
8 the possibilities, what the heck do we do, in-season
9 management, well, we know darn well that we can't do
10 anything.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Alex.

13
14 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the
15 new coordinator for the Lower Yukon/Kuskokwim Federal
16 Subsistence Advisory Council, I would recommend that any
17 discussion that will have adverse impact on the lower portion
18 of the Yukon, from Russian Mission on down river be referred
19 to the RAC meeting. Because I can't speak as a coordinator
20 for the Yukon/Kuskokwim Council and the two members that we
21 have here were appointed to come and attend this joint
22 meeting to see what your reactions are with respect to these
23 issues and recommendations or plans for in-season management
24 of the fishery in the Yukon and Kuskokwim. And with that in
25 mind and with the testimonies that were presented to you --
26 or to the Board of Fisheries and to you, you know, in January
27 and also in February, I would recommend that discussions
28 relating to Lower Yukon from Russian Mission on down river
29 and the Yukon/Kuskokwim be referred to our RAC meeting in
30 Kotlik.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Craig.

33
34 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I
35 just wanted to comment to say that I think we should look at
36 this in a more positive light, in that, us taking some
37 restrictions on ourselves for subsistence fishing isn't a
38 negative thing. I think we should look at it in the positive
39 light and say, if we restrict ourselves now, there'll be
40 something down the road. So let's try to turn this around
41 and be more positive instead of saying, well, let's be
42 miserable because we can't fish. I think let's look
43 positive. Let's say, if we preserve -- not preserve, if we
44 conserve what we have today, there'll be something for
45 tomorrow. So let's try to keep it in a positive light.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with

50 the Office of Subsistence Management. As Polly Wheeler

00100

1 pointed out, with regard to this maybe getting to the realm
2 of Tier II on the State side. Our office is aware that with
3 further restrictions there is a possibility of getting into
4 Section 804 and so we will be investigating that to see if it
5 indeed comes into play with further restrictions.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, thank you. Why
10 don't we get this fisheries over, I think we've talked about
11 it long enough. You got what you want, a little bit, Monty,
12 okay, shall we move on? Are we still in agreement with what
13 we were just talking about, these half restrictions?

14
15 MR. FLEENER: Yes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You got it, Monty, let's
18 carry on.

19
20 MR. MILLARD: We're going to have additional
21 discussions, this is just the beginning.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the main
26 discussion was on the Yukon River and I assume you're saying
27 that that would also apply to the Kuskokwim in the same vein?

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince, this was a
30 consensus for our suggestions to what Monty has brought up --
31 I think we'll take a short break right now and give ourselves
32 a break, a 10 minute break.

33
34 MR. MILLARD: This is just the Yukon.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Call this meeting back to
41 order. Okay, Jack, you had something.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
44 make a motion to adopt the resolution that I drafted
45 regarding this chinook conservation problem in the Yukon
46 drainage. Whereas, the Joint Eastern and Western Interior
47 Regional Advisory Council recognizes the first chinook pulse
48 in the Yukon drainage is especially in need of conservation;
49 whereas, there is need for limited harvest on that pulse; be

50 it resolved, managers open the first opening after the first

00101

1 pulse has arrived in river. Each district will fish half
2 their respective regulatory schedule with concurrence of
3 State managers.

4
5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You move that.

6
7 MR. FLEENER: Second.

8
9 MR. SAM: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: This resolution has been
12 moved and seconded and question has been called, in order to
13 reserve at the same time we want to vote on this and get this
14 passed and out of the way. All those in favor of this
15 resolution -- first let me ask this, does my Board understand
16 this resolution?

17
18 (Council nodding affirmatively)

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, all those in favor
21 of this resolution signify by saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed, same
28 sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Resolution passes. Now,
33 we're done with fisheries here with this resolution. And
34 there is one more person that I want to hear from, either
35 support or something and that would be from YRDFA, so Jill,
36 we're giving you a little time here to see what YRDFA as to
37 say or anything, support or inform us or anything.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, while she's coming
40 there, Micki, did you vote on that last action -- are you
41 still on-line?

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, I'm in favor of the
44 action.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Let the record
47 reflect that Micki voted in favor, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. Jill.

00102

1 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chairman and the Board, I'm
2 not exactly clear as to -- if you could clarify your question
3 that would be helpful for me on what you'd like to know from
4 YRDFA.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I was just --
7 seeing's since you were here and since we have you down on
8 our agenda, is that, if you had anything that you wanted us
9 to do or you have something to inform us about.

10
11 MS. KLEIN: I can speak on behalf of the
12 teleconferences as well as a bit about the meeting in Holy
13 Cross, the annual meeting and the proposals to align State
14 and Federal regulations. So those are the three areas that
15 I could speak to you. I'm not sure where we are on the
16 agenda and if you'd like me to address all of those.

17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'm just giving you
19 an opportunity to speak.

20
21 MS. KLEIN: Great. Okay. The first item is
22 about in-season management and the teleconferences. And
23 YRDFA has since 1993, as most of you know, been carrying out
24 in-season management teleconferences during the fishing
25 season on the Yukon River. And we are currently looking for
26 additional funding to make sure that we can do the
27 conferences again this summer. And we would like to ask the
28 RACs here, the Joint RAC for input on how we can better
29 service the users on the Yukon River during this summer. I
30 know there's been an idea about switching each phone call,
31 starting upriver versus down river or going through the
32 subsistence catches and making sure that the telephone call
33 is on the same day once a week, for that consistency. And
34 due to increased costs, there's more phone calls because of
35 the more complex decisions that need to be made and we'd like
36 to ask that people can share phones or speaker phones due to
37 increased costs because we'd like to be able to keep the
38 costs down.

39
40 So if there is input, any comments or advice
41 on how YRDFA can better hold these teleconferences, I'm open
42 to taking suggestions.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, these suggestions
45 were taken up at Holy Cross and then I just hope that -- I
46 had one suggestion here but I don't know if there's any other
47 suggestions, he just hope that your teleconferences go very
48 well.

49

My suggestion would be is that on these

00103

1 teleconferences is that they say -- that it be very
2 respectful to the upriver people, that once they report, that
3 they listen to our concerns, too, and just not report and
4 hang up. That's kind of disrespectful. It makes people kind
5 of -- they don't say it publicly to everybody but I'm the one
6 that always hears about it.

7
8 Anything else.

9
10 MS. KLEIN: I was just going to report on the
11 highlight of the annual meeting in Holy Cross, from our
12 perspective, was that, as part of the 2001 fisheries
13 monitoring programs from the Office of Subsistence
14 Management, YRDFA received funding to do a traditional
15 ecological knowledge project this summer on the Yukon River,
16 and we spoke about it during the YRDFA meeting and had a good
17 conversation and had a good response. We've been invited by
18 Holy Cross so far, to work there and do the TEK project on
19 salmon behavior and we'd like to ask other people,
20 individuals and/or communities and villages if they would be
21 interested in YRDFA coming in this summer as part of our
22 first year project to interview and find more information out
23 about salmon behavior from a traditional knowledge
24 perspective.

25
26 The meeting was in Holy Cross. We didn't
27 have as many people there as we would have hoped for due to
28 bad weather and people not being able to make it to the
29 meeting. But we followed the usual meeting procedures of
30 having agency personnel present on the projects going on on
31 the Yukon.

32
33 So are there any specific questions about the
34 annual meeting?

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I just have one
37 recommendation, just for Salena's benefit, could you state
38 your name and who you represent?

39
40 MS. KLEIN: My name is Jill Klein and I work
41 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

42
43 And the last item was about actions taken by
44 the Board of Fisheries that necessitate a similar proposal
45 being submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board to assure
46 consistency of regulations. And YRDFA is going to be having
47 a board meeting on the 14th where we will likely look at
48 these proposals and draft either resolutions or proposals
49 ourselves to submit to align the regulations.

00104

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Where's your next meeting
2 going to be at?

3
4 MS. KLEIN: The 2002 meeting location, for
5 our annual meeting, it hasn't yet been determined but we try
6 to rotate every year between upriver and down river. I know
7 the 2003 meeting is going to be in Kotlik.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is that all you have?

10
11 MS. KLEIN: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any questions for her?
14 Seeing none, thank you. Ron, you had something to bring up
15 here?

16
17 MR. SAM: Yes. While we're on fisheries, am
18 I in order?

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes.

21
22 MR. SAM: Okay, we have two resolutions, one
23 that was brought before us by YK-Delta and one that we talked
24 about earlier, I think it would be appropriate at this time
25 that we take action on these.

26
27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Would you read them?

28
29 MR. SAM: Yes. This resolution from YK-Delta
30 was submitted to both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
31 in Juneau and Federal Subsistence Board via Mitch
32 Demientieff. It's Resolution 01-2001, this was submitted by
33 YK-Delta. And it goes, whereas, chinook and chum salmon have
34 been determined to be stocks of concern in the Yukon and
35 Kuskokwim Rivers and; whereas the Alaska Board of Fisheries
36 has established salmon escapement goals amongst necessary for
37 subsistence and; whereas the primary objectives of the salmon
38 rebuilding plans are to meet escapement goals and subsistence
39 needs; therefore be it resolved we the members of the
40 Yukon/Kuskokwim/Delta, Western Interior and Eastern Interior
41 Federal Regional Advisory Councils respectfully request that
42 the State and Federal governments do everything possible to
43 ensure the salmon escapement and subsistence needs are met on
44 the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers in 2001; be it further
45 resolved that specifically we request that if it becomes
46 necessary to completely close any subsistence salmon fishery
47 along the Yukon or Kuskokwim Rivers, that immediate action be
48 taken to simultaneously close all Area M commercial salmon
49 fishing.

00105

1 I understand this resolution is in our
2 packet.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is that a motion from you
5 Ron?

6
7 MR. SAM: That's a motion to adopt.

8
9 MR. FLEENER: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince, you had something
12 to add?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, copies of that resolution
15 is in your notebook if you need that. It's kind of a --
16 whatever color this is, yellowish color, the exact wording is
17 in there in your clip of fish information.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do we want to further
20 discuss this? Craig.

21
22 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I got a question for
23 Monty, what's the feasibility of something like this
24 happening, the Area M portion, and you only have about 25
25 seconds.

26
27 MR. MILLARD: Okay, thank you, it's extra-
28 territorial, like was mentioned before, we probably have very
29 little control over that. It would be something that would
30 be occurring in-season. You're not going to stop Area M from
31 fishing when everything we're doing is occurring over 24 or
32 48 hour periods.

33
34 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't
35 think it will hurt anything if we do pass this. I think it
36 just expresses our opinions and reiterates our position on
37 Area M and the high sea fisheries and I don't think it will
38 hurt anything.

39
40 MR. FLEENER: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: The resolution has been
43 moved, seconded, discussed and question been called. All
44 those in favor of the Joint Eastern and Western Regional
45 Advisory Councils and YK-Delta -- first we'll go between the
46 Joint Western and Eastern and I think the YK will take it up
47 in Kotlik. All those in favor of adopting Resolution 01-
48 2001, signify by saying aye.

49

IN UNISON: Aye.

00106

1 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed, same sign.

4
5 (No opposing votes)

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Resolution 01-2001 passes
8 from these two Councils. Ron, you had another one?

9
10 MR. SAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Resolution 01-
11 2002, we talked about this earlier, Joint Western and Eastern
12 RAC resolution. This just addresses the Staff to remedy
13 proposals -- or I mean to introduce proposals; it's short so
14 I'll just go ahead and read it.

15
16 We would encourage the very capable Federal
17 subsistence fisheries staff to submit fisheries proposals to
18 the Federal Subsistence program review; whereas, the Federal
19 program has hired on many staff who have many years of
20 experience with these fisheries; whereas the staff may
21 recognize regulatory remedies to address specific management
22 affects on subsistence resources of users; be it resolved,
23 proposals submitted by staff are welcome by the Councils.

24
25 And I make a motion to adopt.

26
27 MR. FLEENER: Question -- or I mean, second.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you already
30 passed that motion this morning unanimously. The typed up
31 text was just because you requested that copies be provided.
32 So unless there's some editing in there we'd have to
33 reconsider it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Ron, we did pass
36 this this morning by consensus. So let the record show that
37 it's a resolution for fisheries proposals, that the Federal
38 staff, since they're so highly qualified and being paid a
39 lot, that they do catch the proposals that will help us to
40 protect the subsistence fisheries, what we miss they'll
41 catch.

42
43 MR. SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, just for the
44 record, I would like to clarify that this is Joint Resolution
45 02-2001.

46
47 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I also would like to
48 make a motion that we request the Board to initiate an
49 agreement with Canada through the treaty process, the focus

50 of the agreement will be for cooperative salmon restoration

00107

1 for the Yukon River stocks and that we also request the Board
2 fund needs assessment for salmon uses on the Yukon River
3 communities.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Discussion.

8
9 MR. MILLER: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll call this Resolution
12 03-2001, it's been moved, seconded and question has been
13 called. All those in favor of this resolution signify by
14 saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed, same
21 sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Resolution passes. Okay,
26 we got anything else more in the form of resolutions for
27 fisheries or proposals? Okay, fisheries are done, moving
28 into wildlife life.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. On
31 wildlife, the way you did it in the past and the way Eastern
32 Interior did it before, we have a process to deal with that.
33 Basically I'll introduce the proposal, there'll be an
34 overhead put up per proposal, if time allows. Usually you
35 pass a motion -- or you don't pass a motion, you bring up a
36 motion which is either to adopt the proposal or adopt the
37 Staff recommendation, then cultural -- biological and
38 cultural analysis is provided. Agency comments are brought
39 forth. We encourage the State to share their comments and
40 then it's an open floor for public comments. Then I provide
41 a summary of the written public comments and then you
42 deliberate and pass recommendations.

43
44 If that's agreeable to the Joint Councils
45 then our Staff will follow that order.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince. Make note what we
48 did earlier to keep the comments public from three to four
49 minutes, and not any longer.

00108

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and they need to submit
2 green cards. But with that, we're ready to go with statewide
3 proposals, if we can have someone come up and put the slides
4 up. The statewide proposals are in Tab C, if we're ready to
5 go there, I assume we're ready. Okay, they're under Tab C,
6 Page 5, Proposals 1 and 2 are from the Eastern and Western
7 Interior. They were to include definitions of airborne,
8 bait, drainage and salvage and a clarification definition of
9 aircraft. George is here to present the analysis.

10
11 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt
12 Proposal -- should we break it down, should we do 1 and 2 --
13 1 and 2.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is there a second?

16
17 MR. MILLER: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, George.

20
21 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Proposals 1 and 2 were submitted by the Eastern and Western
23 Interior Regional Councils, respectfully. They request the
24 definitions of bait, drainage and salvage be added to Federal
25 regulations. These definitions are found in State
26 regulations. Proposal 1 also requests that a definition of
27 airborne be added to Federal regulations. Airborne appears
28 twice in our Federal regulations. Bait appears 35 times
29 within Federal regulations. Drainage occurs 239 times in
30 Federal regulations. And salvage appears four times in
31 Federal regulations. Adopting these definitions would
32 strengthen the Federal regulations but should have no
33 negative impact upon Federally-qualified subsistence users.

34
35 The conclusion is to support both proposals,
36 which, would in effect add all four definitions to Federal
37 regulations.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. FLEENER: Question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Before we go to the
44 question, Vince you had something?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There may
47 be agency comments, Fish and Game did submit some comments.
48 They may want to explain those comments or they may have
49 changed as the analysis has moved along. And just quickly,

50 there was no written public comments so we can jump over

00109

1 that, unless someone else knows of some on Proposals 1 and 2.

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Terry, do you know what
4 proposals we're talking about?

5
6 MR. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, so comments.

9
10 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes with the Department
11 of Fish and Game, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have written
12 comments that appear in the materials you have before you.
13 I don't believe we have any comments beyond what appear in
14 the written comments so unless you have questions about our
15 comments, our written comments in the meeting materials will
16 stand, but we will try to answer questions if something about
17 our comments is unclear to you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is there any questions
20 for Terry? I have a question for you, Terry, is that do you
21 agree -- does the State Department agree what we're trying to
22 do here, to establish these, like airborne and stuff, do you
23 agree with that or does the State understand it?

24
25 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman we support this
26 proposal. The only question we had, we were waiting to see
27 a definition of airborne which had not appeared in the
28 original proposal and the proposed definition of airborne
29 seems pretty self-explanatory so we have no problem with
30 this proposal.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Proposals 1 and 2
33 moved, seconded and question has been called. All those in
34 favor of adopting Proposal 01 and 02 signify by saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed, same
41 sign.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Proposal passes, next
46 one.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the next
49 proposal -- well, first, Mr. Chairman, Micki are you still on

50 line?

00110

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And you did vote on the last
4 proposal, correct?

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, in favor.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Okay, the next
9 proposal is Proposal 11, and just to keep everybody moving
10 along, it's on Page 54 under Tab B. And you had public
11 testimony earlier this morning on it, it is to deal with Unit
12 20(C) wolf hunting and trapping, it's from the Alaska
13 Wildlife Alliance. They would like to close that portion of
14 Denali National Park and Preserve east of the Toklat River to
15 wolf hunting and trapping.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: George -- go ahead, Tom.

18

19 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, this will be a joint
20 presentation by myself, Tom Kron, with the U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management and Hollis
22 Twitchell from the National Park Service, Denali National
23 Park and Preserve.

24

25 The material, again, as Vince noted is on
26 Page 54, starting on Page 54.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Wait, Tom, we have to put
29 it on the table.

30

31 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt
32 Staff recommendations for Proposal 11.

33

34 MR. MILLER: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Tom.

37

38 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, as
39 Vince pointed out, you can find it on Page 54, the more
40 detailed Staff analysis. Hollis and I will be providing a
41 brief overview for you. Also in your folders I've provided
42 a copy with color graphics, the graphics did not come out as
43 well in some cases as they might have in the booklet, so,
44 again, refer to your folder and you'll find a cleaner copy
45 there. So having said that I will launch into the comments.

46

47 As you can see on Page 55 of the notebook,
48 you know, there have been a tremendous amount of public
49 comments on this proposal. There were 1,233 written public

50 comments, of which, 1,229 were in favor of the proposal and

00111

1 four were opposed.

2

3 On the screen is the map that shows you the
4 area in question. And again, it's a little bit complicated
5 but look at the area up in the upper right-hand corner with
6 the double cross-hatching, that's the area that we're talking
7 about here. That's the area that was added to the Park and
8 Preserve, it's Park land but it was added with ANILCA in
9 1980. There's a little triangular-shaped piece there in the
10 middle and that's the area that I'll mention that was closed
11 with a sunset, but it was closed by the Board of Game this
12 past year.

13

14 This proposal has come to interest because it
15 provides specific protection for wolves which live near the
16 Denali National Park and Preserve road system. Most Park
17 visitors have been able to view wolves -- more Park visitors
18 have been able to view wolves recently and the proponent
19 would like to provide additional protection to the Eastfork
20 wolf pack.

21

22 Odessa maybe the next graphic. There are
23 usually about 15 packs of wolves in Denali National Park and
24 Preserve at any one time. Again, as has been noted, there's
25 been a considerable amount of research done on these wolves,
26 Dr. Lane Adams from USGS has been conducting research there
27 since the mid-1980s. The population of the pack in question,
28 there's been radio collar work that's been done and, again,
29 the population in question has a home range as identified by
30 this graphic here and, again, you have it on paper in front
31 of you as well. But it shows you the normal distribution
32 and, again, there are a small number of occurrences in the
33 area that's being proposed for restriction. But the bulk of
34 the distribution is within the original boundaries of Denali
35 National Park and that area is off limits for subsistence.

36

37 Next graphic, please. The Denali National
38 Park and Preserve wolf population has varied over time. Since
39 1986, the population has varied from under 50 animals to
40 nearly 175 animals and again -- maybe the next graphic please
41 and then we'll go back to this one -- again, this graphic
42 shows a relationship between snowfall and population density.
43 And again, the yellow dots are population estimates in
44 October and, again, the red line shows the population change
45 over time in the spring, in March.

46

47 Then we'll go back to the earlier graphic.
48 Okay, brief comments about wolf biology and I know we have a
49 number of wolf trappers on the Council, a great amount of

50 information here. But wolves, again, are born in dens, they

00112

1 abandon the dens after about eight weeks and live at sites
2 above ground until early Autumn and then the entire pack
3 roams around the larger territory in the fall and winter. An
4 average of about 28 percent of the Denali radio collared
5 wolves disperse from their home pack annually. Based on the
6 average Denali pack size of nine wolves in the fall, the
7 average litter size of four pups, a typical pack consists of
8 two adult breeders, four pups and three sub-adults. From
9 1986 to 1999, the number of pups in the Eastfork pack, the
10 pack that we're talking about here as varied from zero to 12.
11 As a pack makes its way around its territory it may encounter
12 and engage other wolves within its territory at any time. A
13 fight to the death can occur during such encounters. Wolf-
14 caused deaths are the largest source of mortality of wolves
15 age nine months and older. The tenure of wolves in the
16 Denali wolf study area is usually limited to one to three
17 years as shown by this graphic, but in some cases individuals
18 can remain in the study area for up to eight years.

19
20 The area within the former boundaries of Mt.
21 McKinley National Park are closed to subsistence use. This
22 area, however, is surrounded by additions to the new Park and
23 Preserve created under ANILCA in 1981. With these additions,
24 the renamed Denali National Park and Preserve nearly tripled
25 in size. ANILCA provides for subsistence opportunities on
26 Federal lands created by the Act, even on National Parks and
27 as such, the Denali National Park and Preserve additions are
28 open to traditional subsistence hunting, trapping and
29 fishing.

30
31 The loss of radio collared wolves, again,
32 based on this study that's been going on since the mid-1980s
33 is described in the graphic that's on the screen now. And,
34 again, as mentioned earlier a major cause of mortality is
35 associated with basically fights with nearby packs and,
36 again, the other information describes normal dispersal,
37 harvest and other natural causes -- you know, other natural
38 causes would include things like land slides, snow slides,
39 those kinds of things.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Hollis, before you start,
42 state your names?

43
44 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm Hollis Twitchell, I'm
45 with Denali National Park. I'm going to pick up in the
46 analysis and talk a little bit about what the harvest is for
47 the wolf packs in the Denali area. What we did is we looked
48 at the harvest sealing records for wolves from 1984 to 1998
49 and identified how many records there were in the areas

50 around Denali Park and Preserve. Those are identified in the

00113

1 State's, what's called unified coding units. These unified
2 coding units extend from the exterior of the Park boundary
3 and up into the Park itself, so these records will show the
4 use for areas both outside and inside of the Park.

5
6 We had to go through an interview process
7 with the subsistence users that we have for Denali and those
8 would be primarily people from the resident zone communities
9 of Cantwell, Lake Minchumina, Nickoli and Talida and then
10 other individuals who have subsistence use permits from the
11 Park. Those sorts of individuals, based on their past
12 traditional use of the area come from the communities of
13 McKinley Village, Nenana, Healy and Tanana.

14
15 In looking at the total number of harvest for
16 these UCUs around Denali, there were 92 total wolf harvests
17 through that 14 year period. Now, that would be on both
18 lands from outside and inside of the Park. After conducting
19 interviews with the subsistence users for Denali, we
20 documented that 35 of the 92 wolves that have been harvested
21 from around the area were actually taken from within Park and
22 Preserve lands. That equates to an average of 2.5 wolves a
23 year. The remaining 57 harvests that occurred, occurred on
24 adjacent non-Federal lands. Of the 32 wolves that were
25 harvested from within the Park and Preserve, the main harvest
26 areas, communities were, nine harvests coming from Cantwell
27 and 19 harvests from Lake Minchumina. The other four
28 harvests were by individuals from the other communities. I
29 believe that's portrayed on a chart -- you don't have that
30 chart up but it's in your book.

31
32 The effect of the proposal, the proposal
33 seeks to close the hunting and trapping of subsistence wolves
34 east of the Toklat River within the 1980 ANILCA additions to
35 Denali National Park. This proposal will have the most
36 direct effect on four to five active subsistence trappers
37 using the Park and Preserve areas. Based on harvest records
38 from the 1984 to 1999, the most likely affected subsistence
39 users are going to be from Cantwell, McKinley Village, Healy
40 and Nenana. Natural dispersal of wolves, mortality which
41 results from aggression from other wolves and other natural
42 causes of mortality are responsible for most of the loss of
43 wolves from the population. The Eastfork pack makes very
44 little use of the affected area requested in Proposal 11.

45
46 From 1986 to the present, there have been
47 1,080 radio collar locations for the Eastfork pack. Of
48 those, only seven of those locations occurred in the area
49 that's proposed for this closure. No radio collared wolves

50 have been harvested in this proposed closure area. The

00114

1 Sanctuary pack, which is off to the east of the Toklat pack
2 has not used the area proposed for the closure in any of the
3 260 radio collar locations that have been received on that
4 pack since 1995.

5
6 This proposal is not expected to yield
7 additional protection to specific tourist friendly wolves
8 from the Eastfork pack. The proposal appears to be in direct
9 conflict with provisions of ANILCA. ANILCA Section 202(3)(a)
10 stipulates, amongst other things, that subsistence uses by
11 local residents shall be permitted in additions to the Park
12 where such uses are traditional. The policy is that causes
13 the least adverse impact upon rural residents who depend upon
14 subsistence uses of resources. That comes from ANILCA
15 Section 802.

16
17 This proposal appears to be seeking to
18 displace subsistence use with a non-consumptive use, wildlife
19 viewing. The management of wildlife in these new Park and
20 Preserve additions, as specified in ANILCA mandates that
21 conservation of natural and healthy populations of wildlife
22 within Park boundaries, while allowing for traditional
23 subsistence uses by local rural residents. ANILCA further
24 states that the National Park Service may temporary close any
25 public lands or portions thereof to subsistence uses of a
26 particular fish or wildlife population only if necessary for
27 reasons of public safety, administration or to assure the
28 continued viability of such a population. ANILCA Section
29 816.

30
31 Based on wolf research conducted in the Park
32 between 1986 and 2000, there is no indication that the
33 natural and healthy status of the wolf population in Denali
34 is threatened at this time.

35
36 The preliminary conclusions is to oppose the
37 proposal. The justification is that ANILCA clearly mandates
38 an opportunity for continued traditional subsistence uses on
39 Park and Preserve additions by local rural subsistence users.
40 The wolf population in Denali National Park and Preserve is
41 considered healthy by the Department of the Interior
42 scientists and resource managers. The health of the wolf
43 population within Denali Park and Preserve is based on the
44 total wolf population within the Park and Preserver and is
45 not based on the dynamics of individuals packs or individual
46 animals within a specific pack. Further, the proposed
47 closure would have a negligible effect on the harvest levels
48 of wolves for which the protection is sought.

49

00115

1 does not support the subsistence buffer zone inside of Denali
2 National Park east of the Toklat River to the eastern Park
3 boundary. This Commission believes that there is a healthy
4 population of wolves in the area and there is no biological
5 reason for creating a buffer zone which would adversely
6 affect subsistence users in the area. The Commission noted
7 that efforts to protect one or two packs for the benefit of
8 visitors does not follow the natural and healthy guidelines
9 of ANILCA. The Denali Subsistence Resource Commission formed
10 under public law 96-487, Section 1, Title 8, Section 808(a)
11 is charged to devise and recommend to the Secretary of the
12 Interior and the governor, a program for subsistence hunting
13 and trapping in the Park. The Denali SRC met on March 5th
14 and reviewed the proposals in the Federal program that affect
15 Denali, the reviewed Proposal 11 and the Commission
16 unanimously opposes the proposal for the reasons stated in
17 the preliminary conclusion and justification. In addition,
18 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission opposes the
19 proposed Federal closure for hunting and trapping wolves
20 inside of Denali National Park east of the Toklat River to
21 the eastern Park boundary. Our position was presented to the
22 Alaska Board of Game in a letter dated April 19th, 2000 which
23 stated, we sympathize with the desire of many people to
24 preserve the Toklat and Sanctuary wolf packs that frequent
25 the eastern and northern part of the Park and occasionally
26 roam beyond Park boundaries into adjacent lands. We feel
27 that the wolf buffer zones would have a minimal effect in
28 providing further protection to the two packs in question.
29 We believe the Toklat and Sanctuary packs are already well
30 protected as they rarely travel beyond the boundaries of the
31 former Mt. McKinley National Park, an area where no
32 consumptive harvest is allowed. In addition, we believe that
33 there is a healthy population of wolves in the area and no
34 biological reason for creating the buffer zone which would
35 adversely affect subsistence users of the area. In addition
36 to the Toklat and Sanctuary packs, we believe other wolf
37 packs associated with the Park road are becoming habituated
38 to people and can provide viewable wildlife opportunities.
39 Nice as it is for visitors to view wildlife, the Park is not
40 to be operated as a large scale zoo. Efforts to protect one
41 or two packs for the benefit of visitors does not follow the
42 natural and healthy guidelines of ANILCA. We are also
43 concerned that the precedence of buffer zones now proposed
44 for wolves might be extended to other animals important to
45 subsistence users in the future. Commission members believe
46 wolves are more threatened by proposed new roads, railroads,
47 possible developments and urbanization in the area in
48 question.

49

And that's the end of my presentation.

00116

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Hollis, I got to
2 say something here. You know, these subsistence people in
3 Alaska, all over the state, it seems like we're always the
4 ones giving up something and nothing in return, we're always
5 doing that. We're giving up fish. We're giving up hunting
6 rights in certain areas. When ANILCA was passed and ANCSA
7 was passed, we gave up our aboriginal rights. Now, in this
8 one little area, you're asking us to give up something else?
9 Yeah, you are. You're taking a subsistence thing away. And
10 I see you shaking your head back there. You're asking us to
11 give up what we're supposed to represent. We're supposed to
12 represent subsistence people in Alaska and you're adversely
13 affecting a subsistence way of life. Do you understand these
14 subsistence people? Do you talk to them? Do you go out
15 there and live the life they're living? And do you see how
16 hard it is for them to live this life? And for you to come
17 up from outside or wherever to infringe upon that life ain't
18 right in my book.

19
20 Is there anything else? Do you guys want to
21 add to this, anything you want to say, say it now.

22
23 Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, having been born in
26 the territory of Alaska and has trapped since I was six years
27 old with my dad trapping wolves and I have trapped wolves my
28 entire adult life, I have a lot of respect for wolves. I
29 don't like malignment of wolves, in that they're a dump
30 little dog that can wander out and be easily trapped. I trap
31 in an area where wolves see people in the summertime and in
32 wintertime they're on my trapline. Wolves that are
33 habituated don't necessarily -- aren't necessarily real easy
34 to catch. I got wolves that are very adept at avoiding my
35 traps and are very -- I can't catch them but are seen
36 normally on road systems. So the whole premise is that the
37 subsistence trap -- these wolves would be easy prey for the
38 subsistence trappers, and I take the opposite view from
39 experience, having had thousands of hours in the field
40 trapping.

41
42 The little that these wolves are going
43 outside of their normal range, I see that myself, that's like
44 every few years the wolves make forays into other areas. I
45 don't feel that this proposal would have any effect really on
46 the conservation of those packs. And I would consider those
47 packs primarily protected. The dynamics of wolves, the
48 fluctuations, it was indicated that the fluctuation down to
49 two wolves was through harvest, I've seen that fluctuations

50 go down through disease. Those kind of real low numbers are

00117

1 either extraction by other wolves or disease comes through,
2 rabies, distemper, they go through a population and knock the
3 wolves way down. I don't trap wolves when they're at that
4 level.

5
6 So I can see where you're coming from. And
7 I understand what you want but it's not real. It's not a
8 realistic view of what wolf dynamics are all about. They're
9 a very smart and intelligent animal, they're hard to catch,
10 and extraction by trapping methods, ground-based trapping
11 methods it's practically impossible. So I'm opposed to this
12 Proposal 11.

13
14 MR. FLEENER: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sorry, sir, you already
17 testified. The proposal is proposed, seconded and the
18 question has been called. All those in favor of Proposal 11
19 signify by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, to clarify, when I
28 put it on the table it was to adopt Staff recommendation.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, the Proposal 11
31 passes with the adoption of Staff recommendation. Is that
32 enough clarification, Vince?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's understood that the
35 motion was for Staff recommendation and it passed unanimously
36 by both Councils, and the record should reflect that you have
37 a summary of the written comments that were provided in your
38 book on Page 55 and you've been provided other material that
39 reflect the level of public comment.

40
41 Are we ready for the next proposal?

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. The next proposal
46 is Proposal 23, it's on Page 21, it deals with Units 21 and
47 24 black bear, it's from Western Interior, it's to revise the
48 baiting provisions.

49

MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd actually like to

00118

1 ask that we ask for unanimous consent for 23 and 33, since
2 they're both proposed by Western, the State and the Feds both
3 agree and there's no written comments against, and basically
4 they're realigning State and Federal regulations.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Vince, do you have
7 that?

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I got that. I was just
10 consulting with Staff that the analysis can be looked at in
11 that light. So let me catch it, what is the motion on the
12 floor, is to do what? Could that be repeated? Thank you.

13
14 MR. FLEENER: Yes. Mr. Chair, I'm requesting
15 unanimous consent for 23 and 33.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: And these proposals are
18 to align, align regulations with State?

19
20 MR. SHERROD: That is correct, Mr. Chair,
21 they align Federal regulations with new, more liberal State
22 regulations adopted in March.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do I have unanimous
25 consent on adopting Proposal 23 and 33?

26
27 (Councils nod affirmatively)

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd ask it this way,
30 after Vince says something -- I'll ask it in another way.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, sorry to interrupt
33 but for public process, you need to at least acknowledge if
34 there's any public testimony available on 23 and, I'm lost,
35 33 -- 23 and 33 and if the State is willing to provide any
36 comments on it. I'm not trying to slow you down, I just want
37 to make sure that if there's been any change in the alignment
38 on this action that they should step forward in sharing that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Terry, you have anything
41 to add?

42
43 MR. HAYNES: No, Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Donald.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, just for part of the
48 record that Denali SRC Commission for Proposal 33, they were
49 in support of it. Thank you.

00119

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, I'm going to ask
2 this another way -- by me asking for unanimous consent for 23
3 and 33, I'm going to do it this way, does any object to
4 adopting Proposal 23 and 33?

5
6 (No opposing votes)

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: By seeing no objection,
9 both of these proposals are adopted so we'll move on to the
10 next proposal.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That brings
13 us up to Proposal 26, which is in your book on Page 34. We
14 do have Sergeant Sharp with Fish and Wildlife Protection,
15 State of Alaska, that would like to come up to the table if
16 there's questions and may have some comments. Proposal 26
17 deals with Units 19, 21 and 24, moose, it's requesting to
18 remove the evidence of sex and identify, it was submitted by
19 the Western Interior. Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Anybody going to move to
22 bring it on the table?

23
24 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt
25 Proposal 26.

26
27 MR. SAM: Second.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Discussion.

32
33 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, this proposal would
34 modify the general regulations concerning possession and
35 transportation of wildlife. More specifically, your proposal
36 requests that the Board eliminate the requirement that
37 portions of the external sex organs remain attached to the
38 carcass to provide evidence of sex for moose in Units 19, 21
39 and 24. The residents of the Western Interior region have
40 expressed in the past that the current, more commonly called,
41 proof of sex regulations, conflict with their cultural
42 beliefs. In fact, a year ago at this time in this very room
43 at your winter meeting you expressed those concerns as well.
44 The Council has -- the Western Council, more specifically did
45 offer an alternative to the evidence of proof of sex that are
46 currently to leave the external sex organs attached to the
47 meat and, that is, to allow a hunter an alternative
48 regulation option, to drag the head out of a bull moose, with
49 or without the antlers attached.

00120

1 The Federal Subsistence Board dealt with this
2 issue in the past, in fact, just last year, Proposal 20 was
3 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board
4 adopted that very regulation as an alternative that a hunter
5 in Units 11 and 13 could use the head of a bull moose as an
6 alternative to evidence of proof of sex and this coincides
7 with your concerns as well.

8
9 The proposed regulation you'll find in your
10 analysis for Proposal 26 on Page 39, general regulations.
11 And essentially what it does is it adds Units 19, 21 and 24
12 to the existing regulation. The C&T, I don't think you need
13 me to read it, it's pretty lengthy, because it covers three
14 units, the subunits of three units concerning the Federal
15 lands. That's in the analysis as well on Page 39 and 40.

16
17 The Staff conclusion is to modify the
18 proposal to allow the substitution of a moose head as an
19 alternative to the existing requirement of evidence of sex,
20 which coincides with the suggestion that you made last year.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Does the State Department
25 want to comment?

26
27 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department of
28 Fish and Game does not support this proposal. In areas where
29 moose harvest is limited to bulls only as part of a
30 biological management strategy, the ability to enforce this
31 regulation depends, in part, on having the same evidence of
32 sex requirements in State and Federal regulations.
33 Maintaining the current evidence of sex requirements helps to
34 ensure the large trophy bulls are not harvested for the
35 antlers without the meat also being salvaged. This proposed
36 regulation also could encourage additional harvest of cow
37 moose in areas where moose numbers already are low and such
38 harvest cannot be sustained.

39
40 One of the most critical concerns expressed
41 by residents of Unit 21(D) and 24 during the Koyukuk River
42 Moose Management planning process was that of wasted meat.
43 Modifying the evidence of sex requirement in the Federal
44 regulations could create considerable confusion among hunters
45 and reduce the effectiveness of an important enforcement tool
46 as this regulation would apply only to moose taken on Federal
47 public lands and not to those harvested on State and private
48 lands.

49

The Federal Board modified the evidence of

00121

1 sex reporting requirements last year in Units 11 and 13, in
2 both of these units the harvest limit is one antlered moose
3 and each unit has the same unitwide fall season. In
4 contrast, Units 19, 21 and 24 are divided into several
5 smaller hunting areas, each has several fall and winter
6 hunting seasons and in some areas, either bull or cow moose
7 can be taken. Therefore, modifying the evidence of sex
8 requirements in these three units may greatly complicate the
9 regulations.

10
11 And I'll defer to Department of Public Safety
12 here if they have additional comments.

13
14 SGT. SHARP: Good afternoon. My name is Todd
15 Sharp, I'm a Sergeant with the Department of Public Safety,
16 Wildlife Troopers. And along with Fish and Game there, I
17 think the biggest concern from our agency for the subsistence
18 that's out there is, one, the confusion between the
19 difference between the State and Federal laws and then
20 whether or not a person is contacted on State or Federal
21 land. And I could see subsistence users potentially being
22 cited if they are on State land or private land with a moose
23 that did not have the evidence of sex.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll go with Mike.

26
27 MR. SAVAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I kind of
28 disagree with this, too, because out there -- from that area,
29 Unit 19 area there, I don't kind of agree with it because we
30 use a lot of meat out of that area. We don't want to carry
31 extra weight, what we take is just the meat, you know, we
32 don't go out for trophy hunting or anything. A lot of those
33 trophy hunters, I seen going in through Aniak in the airport,
34 you can smell that meat and by the time they get it there,
35 that's dog food. My dad told me that once. He said that
36 going through that airport, them guys are just wasting our
37 food, our lifestyle. And I think what you guys should do,
38 you know, if those trophy hunters want to go do that, just do
39 that to the sport hunters, trophy hunters, leave us
40 subsistence people alone because we give up too much. Ever
41 since my dad was a kid that's all he ever said is he's giving
42 things up.

43
44 I don't know what else to say. I don't know
45 how to make you guys understand it. We've got one elder here
46 on the board, he hunt all his life, he never waste any meat,
47 guys come in and take our food away and I suppose they do
48 that all over. You know, something's going to -- you know,
49 I'm afraid some Native's going to shoot a White man pretty

50 quick, sports hunter, and who's going to get the blame.

00122

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mike. Craig.

2
3 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted
4 to ask Terry, how does changing this regulation promote cow
5 hunting when the head can be used to identify sex? In your
6 first statement where you were reading something you said
7 that there could be more cow hunting, how would that happen
8 when you have evidence of sex by bringing the head out? And
9 while Terry's thinking about that, I'll ask Todd a question.
10 In Units 19, 21 and 24, how many wrong sex citations have
11 been written?

12
13 SGT. SHARP: Unfortunately I don't have that
14 exact figure for you here today. Generally, there's, you
15 know, we do issue a citation in that regard in most game
16 units, you know, with contacts of people, one or two times,
17 at least, you know, in a game management unit per year.

18
19 MR. FLEENER: So are you estimating maybe two
20 per unit, two citations per unit?

21
22 SGT. SHARP: Something along those lines,
23 yes. And I think I could probably assist with the question
24 that you posed to Terry, at least, from the public safety
25 standpoint and that is that, you know, though it's difficult
26 to maintain -- and I'm assuming with the proposal that was
27 made before on this moose head that it's detached and not
28 attached; is that correct?

29
30 MR. DeMATTEO: If I understand your question
31 correctly, yeah, that it's detached, not attached.

32
33 MR. FLEENER: Awfully heavy to carry
34 otherwise.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 SGT. SHARP: Understandable. I realize that.
39 But that's one of the reasons why we have this naturally
40 attached situation, is that, unfortunately there are people,
41 and in my business I always get to see the opposite side of
42 some people, and they would be willing to take a cow moose
43 head or have a bull moose head and then transport that or
44 trade it or what have you or have it hidden out somewhere so
45 that they can take more than one animal. We get people who
46 take more than their limit, that happens in game management
47 units and the real only definitive way I can tell you for the
48 State, that's why the regulation is that we have evidence of
49 sex, is the definitive way to tell whether the moose is a cow

50 or a bull is through that evidence of sex.

00123

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Todd, let me ask
2 you this, where these people want to take more than one moose
3 and they pack that head around and then they throw the other
4 one away, where is this happening, on the highway system --
5 where is this happening, mostly on the highway system or on
6 the river system?

7
8 SGT. SHARP: Well, it's actually not
9 happening with the State right now because under State
10 regulations, the only requirement is evidence of sex
11 naturally attached, the sex organs themselves, nothing to do
12 with the head. So my concern would be, and I think the
13 State's concern would be that if we allow people simply to
14 have the head in their possession, I think -- what I'm trying
15 to address is what you had proposed to Mr. Haynes here a
16 moment ago, is that, if somebody did have a head, they could
17 use it for multiple carcasses or a sub-legal bull or what
18 have you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, just by the period
21 of time that they're allowed to hunt, though, any moose meat
22 that's going to be out there is going to spoil within one
23 day, if you don't take care of it properly. I mean you can
24 tell spoiled meat from fresh meat, can't you?

25
26 SGT. SHARP: Oh, certainly. No, I realize
27 that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ray.

30
31 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I can see where
32 somebody could potentially haul a moose head back out again,
33 but I guess you should be able to tell whether that's taken
34 at the same time as the meat, that head's going to be
35 stinking. In our area, the person that wants to salvage that
36 head is bringing it home to make moose head soup, they
37 utilize the head. That's what I'm going to say, Mike, it's
38 an either or. If you're bringing in the head with the moose
39 then you don't have to leave the sex organs attached to that
40 quarter. But if you want to leave the head in the woods then
41 you do have to leave it attached so it doesn't allow for
42 cheating. But up in our area, even though I don't eat moose
43 head myself, I always bring it back and give it to somebody
44 who wants it, so I've got the head along. But for years, I
45 customarily don't leave those organs attached because there's
46 a problem of dealing with the urine. I mean if you cut the
47 penis through, then you got to make sure you got the sack so
48 it doesn't drain all over and so on. We just take that whole
49 thing out, the sack and the organs and put them to the side

50 and then you don't get any of that urine on the meat. So I

00124

1 guess there could be cheating under either.

2

3 I guess if I really wanted to cheat I could
4 take a quarter out with it attached, too, and put it in the
5 trunk of my car or boat or whatever and go out and get
6 another cow moose and bring in three-quarters and leave one
7 in the woods. I just don't see a lot of cheating going on,
8 at least in the rural areas, with either or.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. I'll call on
11 Fritz.

12

13 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back
14 home, like maybe my family like my mom's not the only one who
15 tells the hunters to take the balls off right away of the
16 moose because it -- you know, if it's there attached to the
17 legs then it leaves a peculiar taste. With all these modern
18 technologies like DNA testing on genes, the testing on the
19 bull, if there's a suspected, you know, switch, like killing
20 something like, you know, I never seen a Native guy throwing
21 away a moose and changing or replacing it with another moose,
22 if there's a suspect out there can't you just take a piece of
23 meat there and a piece of meat off the head and compare the
24 genes, you know, like the DNA, that way you'll know it's the
25 same bull?

26

27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Fritz. Go
28 ahead, Todd.

29

30 SGT. SHARP: Thank you. Yeah, I was
31 basically trying to help out a little bit with the questions
32 that you proposed to Terry. My stand, again, is that there's
33 State and Federal land out there and that the subsistence
34 user is going to encounter me or one of my troopers on State
35 land in possession of a moose that doesn't have the evidence
36 of sex on it and they're going to receive a citation from the
37 State if they're on State land for this particular moose. So
38 I'm trying to prevent that from happening by discouraging
39 this proposal.

40

41 As far as the DNA issue goes, this is a
42 definitive on the spot, I can tell you that you got a bull
43 moose in your possession right now. With DNA it's very
44 expensive and I have to probably end up seizing the moose
45 from you and take that and hold it until I can prove
46 indefinitely that it is a bull moose. So this is an on the
47 spot, quick, definitive way for us, and my troopers to tell,
48 that what you have in your possession is a legal animal. And
49 I think Fish and Game has a comment.

00125

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Hold on, I got another
2 comment over here.

3
4 MR. MILLER: Couldn't you do the same thing
5 with the head also, I mean if you had the head there? If the
6 guy was taking the head out, I mean it's pretty obvious.
7 I've personally never left the sex organs attached to a moose
8 so, you know, that's the way I was taught to hunt, that was
9 the way I was taught to cut and, you know, I brought the head
10 -- the head's always came back with me. So I guess that just
11 makes me one of the many outlaws that hunt.

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: One thing the State
14 doesn't really consider is that they come in and it's we
15 manage and you cooperate. And one thing that they did not
16 take into consideration drawing up all these regulations is
17 the traditional knowledge of the people that you're managing.
18 You're not only managing the resource, but you're managing
19 the resource to let those people -- you never went and asked
20 how the traditions are, you just bombed in and told us -- not
21 you, but I mean your entity.

22
23 You had something, Benedict?

24
25 MR. JONES: Yeah, it's Benedict. There's
26 other ways to identify moose quarters by the hoofs. Because
27 I always leave the hoofs attached in case if I'm transporting
28 the meat home and the game warden, if I don't have the sex
29 attached I can identify between the difference between a bull
30 and a cow.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: State your name.

33
34 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
35 Glenn Stout with the Department of Fish and Game. I just
36 wanted to address real quickly what Mr. Fleener had requested
37 as far as how that may encourage cow moose harvest. And, in
38 particular, that analysis related to the original proposal
39 which did not include the option of having the head in the
40 field and so that had to do with that. And the idea is that
41 if, in fact, the evidence of sex is not required then there
42 would be no evidence of sex of any kind left on the animal
43 and that would create an option where people who are inclined
44 to do so could take cows. And so potentially more cows could
45 be harvested under that situation.

46
47 My second comment has to do with how this
48 relates, particularly, for instance to the Koyukuk Controlled
49 Use Area, where we've gone through a planning process

50 recently and one of the main issues that we addressed in that

00126

1 was one of our concerns about wasted meat. That came up time
2 and time again, the concerns of wasted meat. And I think
3 we're very concerned that if we lose this enforcement tool
4 that there remains that possibility that people inclined to
5 shoot a trophy bull, for instance, could hike way back in
6 there where the trophy bulls are hard to find, are a little
7 bit tougher to get to, harvest a bull, bring the head out and
8 then somewhere along the bank of the river they could harvest
9 an easy cow and they would satisfy the requirements that
10 we're talking about here where they would have the evidence
11 of sex in the way of antlers or a head and then they could
12 have the meat of a cow which would even taste better, too,
13 which we've heard before. And so I think this is kind of an
14 option, which we've seen before, is one thing as far as waste
15 that we're concerned about.

16
17 What we have seen up there and what we've
18 tried to inform people coming through the check station, for
19 instance, that it's really quite easy to leave a portion of
20 the evidence of sex on a bull by just a small portion, it
21 doesn't even require the testicle portion, it just requires
22 a small portion of the penis attached, you know, it could be
23 as short as a half-inch there that can remain attached, real
24 inconspicuous but it's real easy for us to identify in a
25 quick situation where we're checking the animals. For
26 instance, at the check station where we're checking as many
27 as 250 or 300 moose.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We understand what you're
30 saying but we were raised to not keep that -- that's like
31 what you -- like what we call (In Native) is what you call
32 taboo, that's taboo in our culture to leave that. We were
33 raised to cut that off and respect it, just what Ray Collins
34 said. So you have a concern of that but we have a lot of
35 concerns of what you do to us, too. So I'm going to ask for
36 a call for the question here.

37
38 MR. MILLER: Call for question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: What was the motion again, to
41 adopt the Staff recommendation?

42
43 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd call for a
44 clarification. I think the initial proposal was to adopt the
45 proposal as written, not the Staff recommendation; is that
46 correct?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's my understanding,
49 was move to adopt Proposal 26 as written.

00127

1 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, if the seconder doesn't
2 mind, I'd move to go with Staff recommendations.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Chuck.

5
6 MR. MILLER: Yeah, that's fine.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, it's been moved and
9 seconded for Proposal 26 to go with Staff recommendation,
10 everybody in favor of the proposal signify by saying aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed, same sign.

15
16 (No opposing votes)

17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Proposal passes. Move on
19 to the next one.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The next
22 proposal is Proposal 25, I believe. We've already dealt with
23 11, 23, 26 and 33. 25 and 34 were deferred by the Eastern
24 Interior to this meeting. There's a little complication with
25 that. Western Interior needs to look at their green colored
26 book and Eastern Interior needs to look at their, I don't
27 know what color it is, peach. And under Western Interior
28 it's on Page 5 under Tab C and Donald has -- it's under what
29 tab, Tab C, also in Eastern Interior under Page 148. I
30 apologize for this for looking at two books but that's the
31 way it is. With that, Proposal 25 is -- I mean 24, excuse
32 me, is dealing with Unit 19, it's dealing with brown bear, it
33 revises the season and harvest limits and it was proposed by
34 Western Interior.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt
39 Proposal 25.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: 24, right?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: It is 25, I was wrong.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is there a second?

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.

48
49 MR. FLEENER: Say that again Vince, I like

50 hearing that.

00128

1 MR. MATHEWS: I was wrong. It's Proposal 25.
2 I'm trying to balance a couple of things here, I'm sorry.
3 It's Page 14 in the Western Interior book and it is Proposal
4 25, it's dealing with revising the brown bear season in Unit
5 24, sorry.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: George or Pete?

10
11 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
12 proposal, again, was submitted by the Western Interior
13 Council and it would extend the brown bear season from May
14 31st to June 15th in Unit 24. The proposal would align the
15 Federal subsistence regulations with recent changes made by
16 the State Board of Game.

17
18 The customary and traditional use
19 determination for brown bear in Unit 24 is divided into two
20 applications. Residents of 24, Stevens Village and Wiseman
21 but not other residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor have
22 a positive C&T determination for that portion south of
23 Caribou Mountain within or adjacent to the Dalton Highway
24 Corridor area. For the remainder of 24, the determination
25 includes residents of 24 and Wiseman but not other residents
26 of the Dalton Highway Corridor area.

27
28 According to the Department of Fish and Game,
29 the unit's brown bear population is thought to be stable or
30 is slowly increasing based on field observations and nuisance
31 reports and hunter sightings over the past decade. Adoption
32 of the proposed action would not adversely affect brown bear
33 populations in Unit 24 nor would it affect anyone hunting
34 brown bear under State regulations.

35
36 The Staff preliminary conclusions are to
37 support the proposal. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry to interrupt there
44 but I think you need to try to keep on record that you would
45 like input from Fish and Game and if there's any other
46 information. I don't know if they've changed their position
47 but it might be wise to consult with them.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Terry.

00129

1 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
2 support this proposal.

3
4 MR. FLEENER: Question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: The proposal has been
7 moved, seconded and question has been called. All those in
8 favor to adopt Proposal 25 signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed, same
13 sign.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Proposal 25 passes. Next
18 one, Vince.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and this time I'll get it
21 right. This is Proposal 34. For the Western Interior book
22 it's on Page 101, on the Eastern Interior book it's on Page
23 154. It is to establish a beaver hunting season in Unit
24 21(E) and it was submitted by the Western Interior Regional
25 Council.

26
27 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move for unanimous
28 consent for Proposal 34, Staff recommendation. And the State
29 and the Staff both agree and there are no written comments in
30 opposition.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: First, I'd like to hear
33 from Pete, if you don't mind?

34
35 MR. FLEENER: I don't mind.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

38
39 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, again, this
40 proposal was submitted by the Western Interior Regional
41 Council. It would create a beaver hunting season with no
42 harvest limits in Unit 21(E). The proposed regulation would
43 be Unit 21(E), November 1st through January 10th with no
44 limit for the harvest.

45
46 There are currently no customary and
47 traditional use determinations for beaver in Unit 21(E),
48 therefore, if the proposed regulation is adopted, rural
49 residents would be eligible to participate in that hunt. The

50 beavers are considered abundant throughout the Western

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1 Interior of Alaska and establishment of the Federal
2 subsistence hunting season for beaver in 21(E) would not
3 adversely impact the existing beaver populations.

4
5 Therefore, the preliminary conclusion is
6 to.....

7
8 MR. SHERROD: And it aligns with the State.

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: Thank you. My fellow Staff is
11 pointing out that it would also align with State regulations.
12 The preliminary conclusion would be to modify the proposal so
13 that it would align with the State and therefore, it would be
14 Unit 21(E), November 1st through June 10th, rather than the
15 proposed January 10th and, again, the harvest limit would be
16 no limit.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Terry.

21
22 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we support the
23 modified proposal. It is consistent with the recommendations
24 we made. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do you agree with that,
27 Craig?

28
29 MR. FLEENER: It was for unanimous consent to
30 support it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, you call the
33 question.

34
35 MR. FLEENER: We actually didn't bring it on
36 the table so Mr. Chair, I move to adopt Proposal 34 with
37 Staff recommendations.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.

40
41 MR. MILLER: Question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved,
44 seconded, all those in favor of Proposal 34 with Staff
45 modification signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed, same

50 sign.

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1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Proposal passes with
4 Staff recommendation. Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that -- unless
7 Staff tells me differently, that completes the proposals
8 before you. But as coordinator, at this moment, I need to
9 ask for a clarification. I'm not asking you to revisit the
10 issue, I'm just asking for a clarification on your action on
11 Proposal 11. We have noted -- or Staff has noted that when
12 the motion was made and then seconded and then passed, that
13 there was no request for those that opposed to the Staff
14 recommendation. So is it clear on the record that -- well,
15 could you clear that up, I suppose is what we're asking for.
16 There wasn't a request for those that opposed the motion.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think on Proposal 11
19 dealing with Denali that we adopted the proposal with Staff
20 recommendation so that means we oppose it.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But the procedural
23 question is, is that it appears to be that it wasn't asked if
24 anybody opposed the motion by showing the same sign, if I got
25 that correct. Well, let me explain it. It would be that
26 usually you say, all those in favor say aye, all those
27 opposed use the same sign, all those opposed using the same
28 sign, was that captured on the tape?

29

30 REPORTER: Yes, it was done.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the record then will
33 reflect that the Staff was not swift enough, that the tape
34 did get the acting -- the Chair at the moment, that he did
35 cover both, for the motion and against it and that will be
36 reflected in the transcript.

37

38 Thank you. Sorry for the delay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Are we done with
41 proposals?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, looking at all the Staff
44 they all look -- for today. For the joint ones we are done.
45 That would bring us up to agency reports, which there may be
46 some that would cover both areas. Now, I need to caution
47 you, the hall we have here is that we can stay in the room
48 until 5:00 or until the staff kicks us out and then from
49 there, if we need more time, which is all right, we would

50 move behind me into the room over there that is similarly set

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1 up but we would have to move all the items. So we do have
2 before you agency reports that may be relevant to both
3 Eastern and Western Interior.

4
5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Who are these agencies?
6

7 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not sure. The only one
8 that I believe has some -- well, Alaska Department of Fish
9 and Game Wildlife Conservation has indicated they didn't have
10 anything that was joint. Okay, the record would reflect --
11 oh, yes, we do have one, sorry. The Alaska Department of
12 Fish and Game may have one. Bureau of Land Management may
13 also, I'm not sure if they do -- no, they do not. Okay.
14 Fish and Wildlife Service, this is for both regions. There
15 is the Western Interior meeting tomorrow. Okay, I see all
16 heads shaking no. National Park Service, anything that
17 covers both regions. I'm sorry, I'm not looking in that
18 direction. Okay, and then other agencies or groups, I don't
19 think there are any. So right now.....

20
21 MR. JAMES: I would like to speak.
22

23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We have one person back
24 there.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'm sorry, two then. So
27 we actually have two reports and I think we're okay with the
28 hall staff.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince, if there are just
31 two reports we'll limit them until the time we have and then
32 we'll go with the subsistence representative, Orville
33 Huntington, first and then we'll go to the Department. Go
34 ahead Orv, state your name and stuff.

35
36 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Hunting,
37 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. Basically I just wanted to give an
38 update that I've been working on the water fowl problem with
39 white-fronted geese at home and with Mike Spindler. And
40 we've been going out to all the villages and the villages are
41 really concerned. The Huslia Tribal Council passed a
42 resolution asking for a reduction in white-fronted goose
43 harvest. And so I'll be working with TCC and Galena
44 subregion and Fairbanks subregion and all the villages. It
45 also impacts the Yukon Flats because some of our white-
46 fronted geese go through Kanuti and they go through Yukon
47 Flats early in the spring. So actually although they're
48 seeing a lot of geese there, a lot of the geese they're
49 seeing are actually the ones that go to the North Slope but

50 they come in later so they don't get harvested first. What

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1 they're targeting is Kanuti white-fronted geese that are
2 coming through.

3

4 So there are a lot of geese that are not only
5 -- they're called Alaska Interior, Northwest white-fronted
6 goose population. It's just that specific population, it's
7 not the one on Yukon-Delta.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Orville, you're talking
10 about the speckled-bellies?

11

12 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, they're called
13 speckled-bellies white-fronted geese. If you guys have
14 questions I can answer them individually, I just wanted to
15 give you an update that it's been a long-term decline that's
16 pretty significant. The Huslia Tribal Council felt strong
17 enough to put a resolution in and they're asking for a 25
18 percent reduction in harvest by all user groups.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ron.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Orville, you have a copy
23 of that resolution?

24

25 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes, I do but I'll have to
26 make a copy for you, it's the only one I have and I have
27 another meeting on Saturday but I'll get you one.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I kind of wanted it right
30 now while we're in joint session.

31

32 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay, well, I can grab it
33 for you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: So I can glance at it briefly.

36

37 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to go ahead and go
40 to them or what?

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We'll deal with you
43 first. We'll just wait until they kick us out.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for Western
46 Interior there's further information on the white-fronted
47 geese under Tab F and we'll be discussing the white-fronted
48 geese, I believe, tomorrow it's on the agenda for Western
49 Interior, but, whatever. You do have material that was

50 submitted by the Refuge, I believe -- yes, it was submitted

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1 by the Refuge dealing with the white-fronted geese in
2 Northwest and Interior Alaska.

3
4 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask Orv
5 a question while you guys are discussing that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, go ahead.

8
9 MR. FLEENER: You guys have been doing long-
10 term population studies or harvest studies or both?

11
12 MR. HUNTINGTON: We've been doing long-term
13 harvest studies around our area and Northwest, I think
14 Maniilaq does theirs and I'm not sure who does it on the
15 Flats, but we've been doing long-term aerial surveys and
16 we've kind of increased every year. It came from the elders,
17 the concerns, they brought it up first and so we started
18 investigating it and it turns out it was like they said but
19 it's just a matter of documenting it and seeing how far back
20 the trend goes. It looks like it started right after the
21 depression and it's been going downhill and it's caused by --
22 they also get harvested in Alberta earlier when they're going
23 in the fall because the Koyukuk River white-fronts are the
24 first ones to hit Alberta and Saskatchewan so they get hit
25 there first before all the other white-fronts show up and
26 they see a lot, same thing, it's just they're targeting --
27 for some reason ours are really getting hammered.

28
29 MR. FLEENER: So then you have evidence
30 that's scientific and with traditional knowledge?

31
32 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
35 reason I wanted this on the floor for more discussion is that
36 we did meet with Orville with two or three communities
37 present and we discussed this quite significantly. The
38 reason I wanted it on the floor is that because Koyukuk
39 River, Kanuti Flats and the Northwest Arctic white-fronted
40 geese are, just like Orville said, they're getting hammered,
41 first ones in and first ones out, so all the hunters harvest
42 them. And I wanted to know whether the Councils want to take
43 any action now or not, it's up to them and this will be
44 introduced at Tanana Chief's Conference.

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: For Orville's effort, I'm
47 going to pass this by unanimous consent, support from the
48 Western and Eastern Councils. Ron, you move to put it on the
49 floor.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So moved.

2
3 MR. FLEENER: Second.

4
5 MR. MILLER: Question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, I'm going to do
8 this by unanimous consent, does anybody object to adopting
9 this proposal by Orville to reduce by 25 percent, speckled-
10 bellied or white-fronted geese; is there any objection?

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Seeing no objection, this
15 proposal gets our support, Orville.

16
17 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Benedict.

20
21 MR. JONES: Are you specifying spring hunt or
22 the season hunt?

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Just a 25 percent
25 reduction in the overall hunting of the bird itself.

26
27 MR. JONES: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, David. Vince.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, while David James comes up
32 on that report, I'll need a copy of that resolution and then
33 hopefully somebody can tell me where that needs to be
34 directed to, that resolution that you just passed by
35 unanimous consent.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, David.

40
41 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman, members of the
42 Eastern and Western Interior Advisory Councils, Staff
43 support, agency representatives and visitors. Good
44 afternoon, I'm David James. I'm the regional supervisor for
45 Region 3, Division of Wildlife Conservation. Region 3
46 includes -- overlaps the jurisdiction of the Eastern and
47 Western Councils and also includes the eastern part of the
48 North Slope and overlaps part of the jurisdiction of the
49 North Slope Advisory Council. I had probably about a 15 or

50 20 minute presentation so this is your lucky day because I'll

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1 just cut it right down to about 60 seconds here.

2

3 The theme of what I was going to present to
4 you revolved around cooperation. I want to assure you,
5 without going into any of the details here and examples laid
6 out, that cooperation continues to be one of the foundations
7 of how we get our job done and we value the support that both
8 of these Councils have given us in some of our management
9 plans and other activities. We also feel that an important
10 part of that corporation also is with the Federal agencies
11 and we have enumerable examples of that. I was going to run
12 through a few of them, but I won't, but much of this is not
13 apparent to a lot of people because we're on a first name
14 basis, we exchange data, we coordinate our field activities
15 and we exchange funds once in awhile also. Again, the theme
16 is cooperation. It continues to be an extremely important
17 part of what we do.

18

19 In addition to the agencies, one of the
20 interesting highlights that I'll just briefly touch on is
21 that we did some cooperative things with the Council of
22 Athabaskan Tribal Governments, that involved moose surveys,
23 wolf surveys. And once Bob Stevens set up an opportunity to
24 have some of the employees from CATG go down to Fairbanks and
25 so some moose surveys in the Tanana Flats where a number of
26 moose on any given piece of ground can be five or even 10
27 times as much as you'll see on the Yukon Flats.

28

29 So we feel that this is a small start but an
30 important one. And that this kind of sharing and cooperation
31 in field activities, I think, can go a long ways as the
32 various natural resource offices or whatever titles they may
33 go by, increase their activities and their influence over
34 these operations in the future.

35

36 I did want to say, too, that Mr. Terry Haynes
37 was in the position on Tuesday, I believe it was, to break
38 some rather unwelcome news to the Eastern Interior Council
39 that was not favorably received. Apparently there's a
40 squabble going on way up here with people way above my level
41 and I just want to reassure you that, I think, you know,
42 we've been through rough times here and there and this is
43 another one of those and just hold the course. We understand
44 and we want to work with all of you and your support,
45 cooperation is extremely important. I think we're all going
46 to survive this and get through very well.

47

48 Once again, I'll cut it off here, it's always
49 a pleasure and a privilege to address you and get to renew

50 old acquaintances and there's probably not enough time for

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1 questions or comments but I'll hang around after the meeting
2 if anybody has anything they want to ask.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ron.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks
7 for your presence. I truly didn't expect to see any State
8 people here and it makes me feel good to see both your staff,
9 Glenn Stout and all the Department people here trying to work
10 with us because we can't do it alone and it's quite apparent
11 that you can't do it alone either. I'm glad for your
12 presence.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I think we better
15 cut off here. I'm going to adjourn this meeting without a
16 vote, there's people looking at us like they're going to drag
17 us out or something.

18
19 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
20 * * * * *

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 137
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the JOINT
13 EASTERN AND WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
14 ADVISORY COUNCILS MEETING, taken electronically by Salena
15 Hile on the 8th day of March 2001, beginning at the hour of
16 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Fairbanks, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
20 under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our
21 knowledge and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th day of March
27 2001.

28
29
30
31
32 _____
33 Joseph P. Kolasinski
34 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04